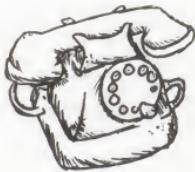
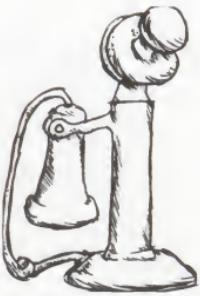
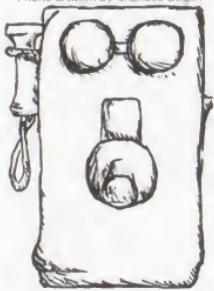




KEEP N  
TOUCH

REFLECTOR 2009

Phone artwork by Charisse Bogan



**L3ts Hav Fun**

Lets//Have//Fun- Student Life- P.4

**Club Mtg N LGI**

Club//Meeting//In//Large Group

Instruction Room- Clubs- P.42

**LOOKing GOOd**

Looking//Good- People- P.70

**Study Hr?**

Study//Hour- Academics- P.116

**Pmpd ^**

Pumped//Up- Sports- P.136

**Watz ur biz baby?**

What//is//your//business//baby-

Ads- P.178

**Wh3r3 u @?**

Where//you//at// - Index- P.200



Office Canteen 11  
Student Council 12



Office Canteen 11  
Student Council 12



Sixth Weekclass 11  
Year 11  
Year 12



Year 11  
Year 12

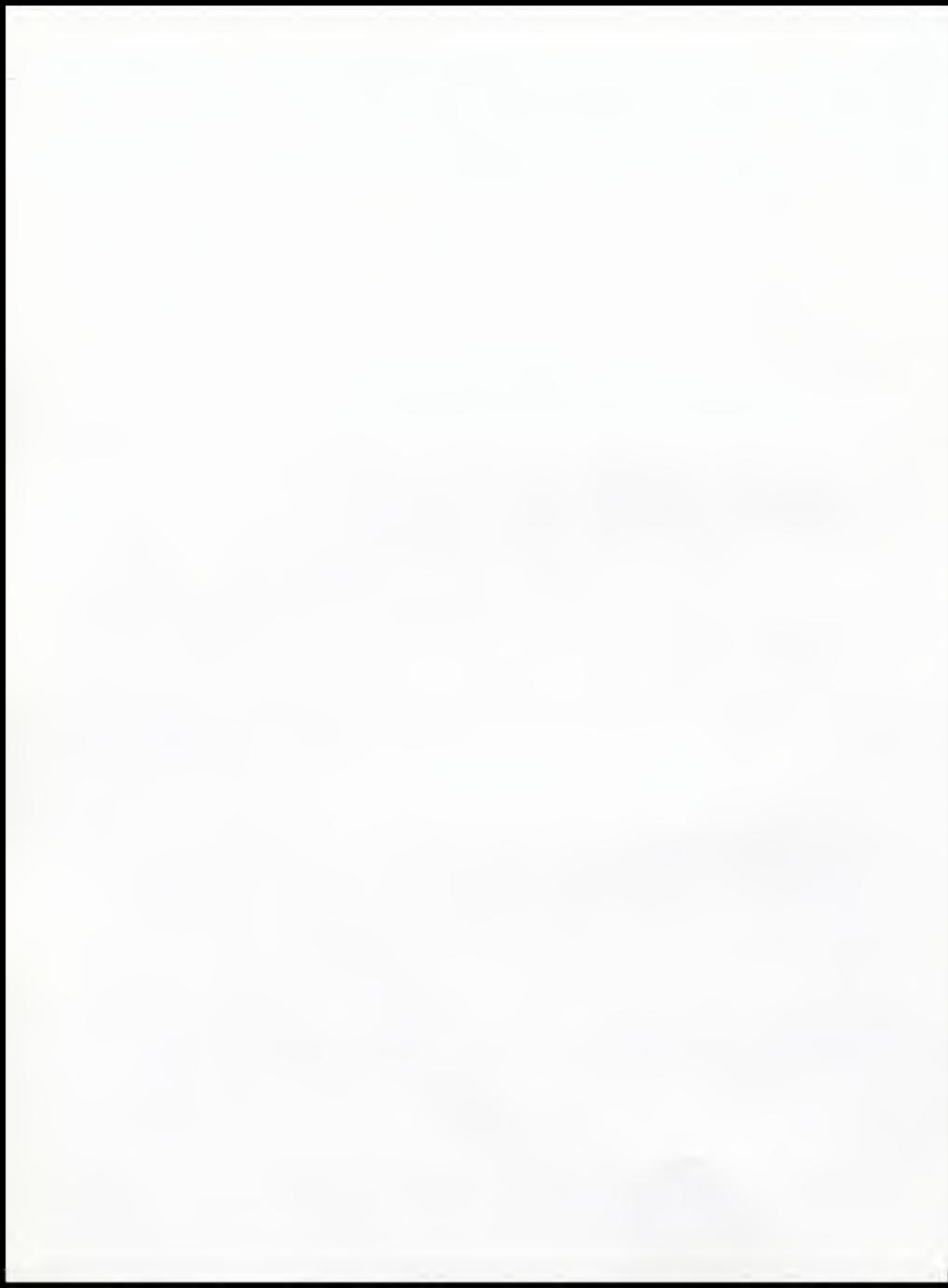


High School 11  
Year 12



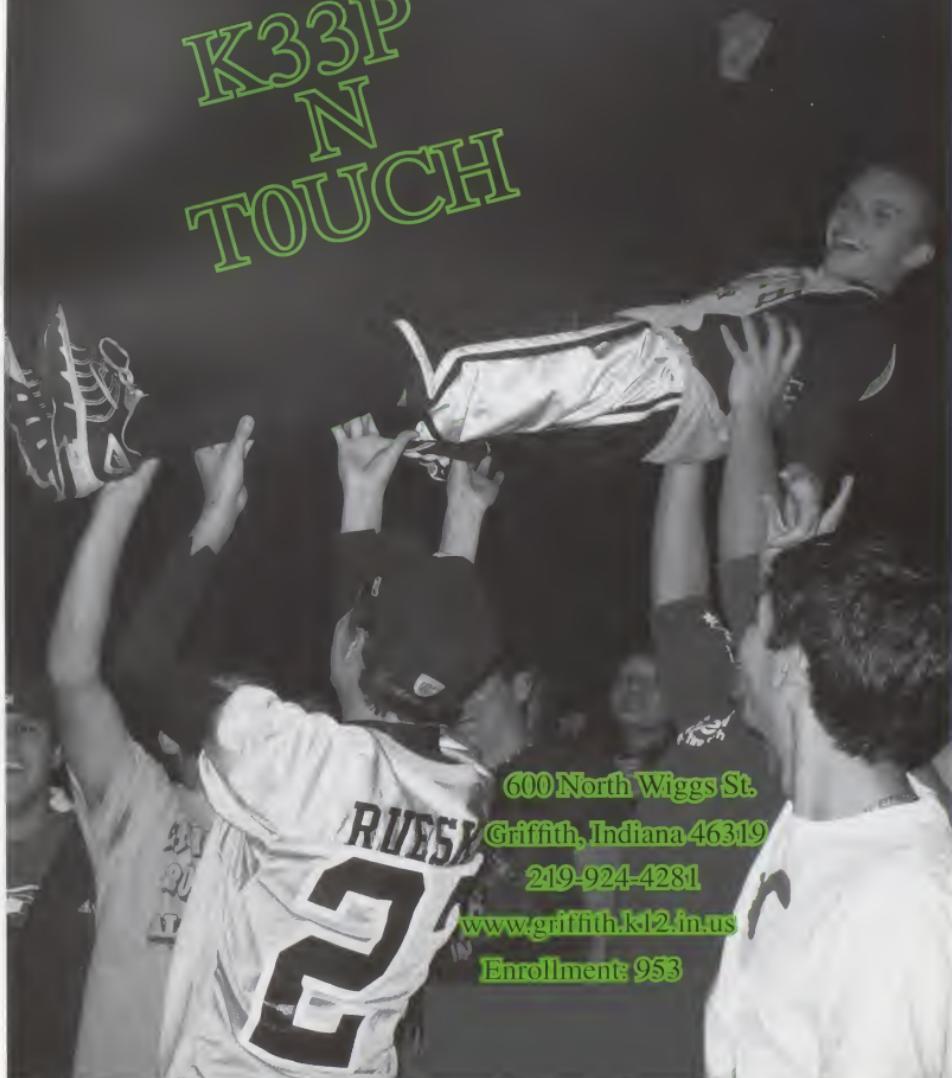
High School 11  
Year 12





2008-2009 Reflector  
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Volume 68

K33P  
N  
TOUCH



600 North Wiggs St.

Griffith, Indiana 46319

219-924-4281

[www.griffith.k12.in.us](http://www.griffith.k12.in.us)

Enrollment: 953

Goodnight! c u @ school.  
- Kelsey Hitt, 11



Hi.  
- Jennifer Landfear, 9



U have 2 dance w/me  
@ homecoming.

- Hope Ryan, 9



#### @ the game w/ spirit

"I super fan football games because they are the most exciting thing to watch," said junior Patrick Ruesken. Ruesken and senior Richie Popovich show their school spirit.



Annie Higginbotham



Allie Pietruska

#### w/ friends n hallway

Quickly between classes, senior Mia Reitz talks to friends in the hallway. "I talk to my friends inbetween the afternoon classes because they are all at career center," said Reitz

#### drng class

Chatting, seniors Cory Jung and Erica Kudryba talk during English. "It was dress up day for spirit week, and we had dressed alike. Mrs. Collard was calling us twinkies," said Jung.



Annie Higginbotham



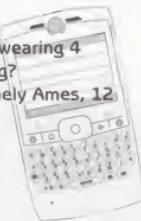
I cant work 4 u.

- Amy Belcher, 10



What are u wearing 4  
homecoming?

- Ashely Ames, 12



#### pmpd up 4 the game

In the huddle before the game, the team gets pumped up. "In the huddle, it gets me jacked. I'm ready to play after we all yell 'Play hard or go home,'" said sophomore Jack Blount.

## W3LC0M3 BAC

#### WELCOME// BACK

It's that time again. Time to get ready for another school year, but this year will be a little different. During the school year it becomes more difficult to stay in touch with all of your friends that you got close with over the summer. We need to adjust to all the changes. We have a new dean of students, new rules and new teachers. The new rules have been adopted in effort to make the school more safe and less distracting. The new dress code prohibits wearing sweatshirts with front pockets, so the pockets must be cut off. Other zip-up sweatshirts must be skin tight, allowing teachers to be able to detect cell phones. We also have a new dean of students, Mike Megyesi. Griffith has never had a dean of students, and the position has been established especially to assist underclassmen in their transition to high school. If you polled the general student population, many would pick lunch as their favorite class (...LOL), and we even have changes there this year. The short line has not been open everyday and full lunches do not offer dessert. Also, lunch prices have gone up again. A full lunch costs \$1.85 now. After lunch, many of us are now greeted by a new teacher (...OMG). New teachers (... W3LC0M3) include Delinice Smith, technology, Justin Schroeder, English, and Emily Giermani, family consumer science, and Leah Powell, special education. (...BTW) Along with having new teachers, a new dress code, and a dean of students, we have one other new rule that greatly affects the student body. If you get caught with your cell phone, there is no warning. The phone gets taken straight to the office, and a parent has to come in to pick it up (...OMG!). If the phone is confiscated again, it remains confiscated until the end of the school year (o\_O). It is that time to remember the rules, greet new faces, and keep in touch (but not during class)!



Amie Higginbotham

### **bc i want money**

"I work at the Munster Animal Hospital in Munster. I was only going to volunteer, but then the hospital offered me a job. I got a job so I could have money," said senior Stacy Staszak.



Ali Pietrucha

### **w/friends @ the game**

To hang out with friends, freshmen cheerleader Aisha Darrough tries to see them at any chance she gets. "At home games I can hangout with my friends after a bit," said Darrough.

### **@ the parade**

The parade was throughout the town and the pantherettes and band strutted their stuff. There were other people walking like SADD, FCCLA, and the homecoming court as well.



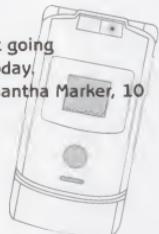
Annie Higginbotham



Ali Pietrucha



Johnnys not going  
to school today.  
-Samantha Marker, 10



# L3TS HAV FUN

LETS// HAVE// FUN

**A**fter a long stressful week of sitting in classes, doing homework, and studying(...zzz), students long for a break to do something exciting. Throughout the week we are on a set routine and when the week is done, it's time to relax. The best part of student life is all the plans we make throughout the year to entertain ourselves in between all the other academic activities. Homecoming is a very big and exciting part of the school year. We have spirit week, the game, then the dance. The homecoming dance has only become popular in the last couple of years. Along with the homecoming dance, turnabout and prom are our other dances that allow the students to get a little more dolled up than the semiformal homecoming dance. Some have jobs to pay for all the more expensive extracurricular activities like concerts and shopping. Besides school related things to complete on the weekends, we have parties and just plain hang out with friends. Another part of student life is dating. Dating in high school is important to some students. It is all about who is with who and who was kissing who at the dance (...OMG). Another critical thing in a student's life is the half days. We all look forward to the rare half days to go out and eat in a large group. It is generally too hard to organize it on a normal day, but the half day allows the free time. For this we all rely extensively on technology to make arrangements for our fun plans. Technology is an incredibly important thing to students. Now a days every student has a cell phone that they are using all the time. While some kids are into all sorts of technology like iPods, gaming, and computers, we all rely on cell phones and texting to bring all our plans together. Most of us usually struggle to get our other activities done, but technology at least helps us to make the time that's left over exciting.

#### wikin around@ KV

Loving his brother, sophomore Chris Melton goes to the football games. "My older brother is the kicker and I want to see him play in all the games," said Melton. Sophomores Cassandra McDaniel and Melton walk back to the stands at the KV football game.

All Pictures by

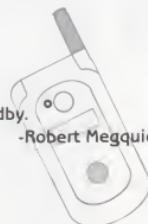
I got it!

-Sarah Guistolisi, 9



Goodby.

-Robert Megquier, 9





page by Samantha McInerney

## Fun in the sun

**R**ing! Ring! As the final bell of the school year goes off, the hallways fill with screaming teenagers ready for summer. Although this summer was very short (it was only 73 days long; we started school August 15), many teens still found ways to make the most of it.

"The best thing I did all summer was go to a friend's lake house," said freshman Brooke Brinkley. "We had a lot of fun being out on the boat all day." Many students have lake houses that they spent most of their summer at.

"For most of the summer, I was at my lake house on Lake Latonka," said sophomore Collin Slagle. Slagle's lake house is located in Culver, Indiana.

If students weren't at a lake house, most students were spending a lot of their time at beaches. "I went to the Dunes a few times over the summer. It was really fun," said senior Trevor Janke. The Indiana Dunes is a great place to go and relax with your friends. The Dunes is a cheap, close place to go and hang out by the lake.

With fall on the way, it brings many sports. Over the summer, coaches condition and train their athletes to prepare them for the upcoming season. "Most of my summer was spent on the football field," said Janke. The football players had practice every day in the summer, and sometimes even twice a day. Football players weren't the only ones that suffered.

"I had wrestling every day in the summer," said Slagle. The wrestlers, along with the basketball players, were lucky and had Friday's, Saturday's, and Sunday's off. Some athletes weren't so lucky. The soccer players had practice every day Monday through Friday, and sometimes even Saturday.

Having practice almost every day, athletes were begging their parents to go on vacation. "I went to Denver, Colorado for a week for my dad's work," said Janke. "It was really nice to get away from football."

"Going to my lake house in Culver was a good change from wrestling," said Slagle. Slagle went to his lake house three times over the summer.

Overall, most students enjoyed this short summer.

### drng the fair

At Western Days, many students try their luck at Bars and Bells, a pull-tab game. "I was celebrating winning the big prize with Kellie [Bubala]," said senior Kristen Yost.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham

### 100kn ^

During the summer, seniors Gregory Joyce, Zachary Butkus, and Shelby Boilek were playing volleyball at the Dunes. "It was a really nice day to go to the beach," said Joyce.

### w/ excitement @ the fair

"Western Days is what I look forward to all summer," said senior Lindsay Brandner. Western Days is held at St. Mary's Church for four days. Abby Metsch and Brandner go every year.





Ali Pietrucha



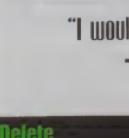
Annie Higginbotham

## Wat is ur dream summer vaca?

"Go to China with my friends."  
- Ashley Brown, 9



"I would go to Japan."  
- Zachary Bozinovich, 10



"I would go to Amsterdam."  
- Nicholas Bobowski, 11

Delete

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### havn a ball

After laying out, senior Brooke Studniarz jumps in the pool at the Pietruchas' house. "It was really hot outside and I'm there everyday in the summer," said Studniarz.

### n the pool

Diving in the deep end, senior Tod Basham takes a late night dip. "I was showing off my sweet diving skills," said Basham.



Annie Higginbotham

### lol @ the beach

Playing volleyball is a fun way to spend a day. "Alyssa [Van Horssen] and I were cracking up because someone got hit in the face with the ball," said senior Austin Guzior.

### afrt a swim

The Higginbotham house is always fun to go swimming at. After a late night swim, senior Abby Metsch checks her cell phone for missed calls and texts.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham

### w/ help frm ppl

Reed's Temple organized emergency care help and collected all types of items for people in need because of the tornado.



Usa Rafa

### afr the trnado

Sophomore Alex Irvin's home was disturbed by the storm. Trees fell around the home and a neighbor's roof flew over by their home.



Ambera Zaborowski

### drng a rain strm

Blocked by rain, a local street becomes flooded. Cars were unable to pass through due to the water level, which reached two feet in some places around town.



Usa Rafa

### Finish the sentence:

If I were caught in a storm...



"I would hide under my bed!"

-Jackson Buzea, 11



"I would sing Lil Wayne songs and dance in the rain!"

-Katelyn Barta, 10



"I would stay inside."

-Kelsey Bonewits, 9

021 Remaining





Lisa Rafa



Lisa Rafa



Caroline Herrera

#### 100kin @ the destruc.

At a nearby shopping mart a tree's roots pulled completely out of the ground. "I was looking at the tree's roots," said freshman Alex Mendoza.

=f

"I was looking at all the destruction that happened in my backyard," said sophomore Alex Irvin. He was accompanied by his friend, freshman Daniel Rafa.



page by Chrissy Colgrove

## Duck 'n Cover!

A black eerie cloud covered the sky of Griffith on August 5, 2008. The tornado that formed from the darkness made history for this small town. The fierce winds destroyed homes and belongings, leaving behind a trail of devastation. However, aside from the agony it caused it gave the community a chance to work together and restore the homes of those less fortunate.

Not everyone was lucky enough to be in a safe place when the tornado hit. "I was leaving McDonalds when the storm came," said Taylor Surowiec, sophomore. "We [Surowiec and sophomore Alyssa Lanting] went to someone's house. We didn't know who it was."

Senior Sara Nashkoff was one of the students whose home was effected by the storm. "Parts of the roof came off, the front door and windows were damaged, [and] all the walls had to be taken down because of rain damage," said Nashkoff.

Another student was able to relate. "I was getting calls from people that my roof had ripped off," said sophomore Billy Rogers. "Everything inside [my house] had to be replaced."

Freshman Brianna Nagel's home was hit so terribly she simply answered "There's too many [damages] to list."

Teens worried where their families, friends, and even pets were and if they were out of harms way. Sophomore Eric Falkner said, "My greatest fear was that I would die."

Rogers was more worried about what the final outcome would do to his home. He said, "My biggest fear was we'd have to move."

Some families made an effort to allow people into their home. Falkner, who suffered somewhat minor damage said, "Random people stayed at my house. I'd wake up and 50 people would walk in!"

September 14, another storm hit, this time causing flooding all around Northern Indiana. By 6 A.M over 25 teachers had called off in the district due to the damage. "It seeped in from the walls and our drain got clogged up," said sophomore Cassie Christenson. Not only did the water manage to sneak its way into her home. It also managed to cause serious damage to her family's belongings. "All our boxes with storage are ruined. My dryer doesn't work. We had to throw out a couch, rip out the carpet in my room, and we had to wash everything down with bleach," said Christenson.

Many people made an effort to help those hit by the tornado or flood, such as Reed's Temple. The community gathered food and any belongings that they could and donated them to anyone effected by the storm. In the end, the final outcome of the storms may have been destructive, but the town was able to come together.





page by Hannah Hack

## n3w 2 skool

New hallways, new classrooms, new teachers, and new friends can all be very overwhelming, even for the most outgoing person. Whether it's moving from four states away or just a few towns away, it can be tough.

Sophomore Michael Sims moved from the New Orleans area in Louisiana to Griffith to live with his mom. Sims is on the Varsity football team, and plans to join the boys' basketball team, as well as the track team.

Freshman Megan Tuttle has already joined the girls' volleyball team. Tuttle came to GH5 from St. Mary's School in Griffith. "It's [Griffith High School] a lot bigger than St. Mary's, and there's a lot more people," said Tuttle.

GH5 also could be a very different atmosphere when coming from Highland High School. Sophomore Timothy Klingensmith said, "Griffith is very different from Highland because of the way the building is set up, and the rules and teachers are more strict here, especially about the stuff you can't wear," he continued to say, "The students and the teachers are nice; Mr. Hastings is my favorite."

Griffith has changed its dress code, but the administration has not gone as far as enforcing uniforms. "In Louisiana, we had to wear uniforms to school," Sims said. Also, St. Mary's is a private school, so the students that attend that school from kindergarten to eighth grade have to wear uniforms. But now, both Sims and Tuttle can wear what they want to school, with the exceptions of a few things, such as sweatshirt hoodies with pockets, and torn or ripped clothing.

Finding out where your classes are can also be difficult if you are a new student at GH5. "The first couple of days were hard finding out where everything is, but then I got used to it," said Tuttle.

Junior twin sisters Caitlin and Courtney Hayes agree with Tuttle, saying "The first days were hard because our old school was three levels." The Hayes twins came to GH5 from Gavit High School in Hammond.

Although GH5 is very different from the other schools that these new students attended, such as Gavit, St. Mary's or Highland, it seems like the students are adjusting pretty well.

### @ her cpu

With her favorite quote in mind, Delicia Smith, business, said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."



Amanda Zaborowski



Amanda Zaborowski



### b4 class

Talking about the size of Griffith compared to Portage, sophomore Ryan Riggle said, "Griffith is smaller than Portage and easier to get around on my bike," said Riggle.

## nxt 2 each othr

Rarely seen apart, junior twin sisters Caitlin and Courtney Hayes open their lockers before class. "Griffith has a lot of school pride," said Courtney Hayes.



Amanda ZaUntwesen

## Wats the best thng bout GHS?



"The teachers are the best thing about GHS because they don't give a lot of homework."

-Angel Highe, 11



"The teachers are the best at GHS because they are nice and friendly."

-Joseph Rush, 10



"The best thing is not being home schooled, because last year I was and didn't get to talk to anyone."

-Zuri Fruin, 12



"I get to meet a lot of new people at GHS, so I think it's the best thing."

-Megan Tuttle, 9

Delete

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USA Rafa

## n the crtyrd

Picking up his hacky sack, junior Anthony Rodriguez plays during lunch with his newfound friends. "I was nervous to make new friends, but after a while I felt welcomed," said Rodriguez.

## bout 2 txt sum

"I was texting my friend about how school was that day," said freshman Priscilla Caudillo. Caudillo was waiting for the bus to take her home after school.

Lisa Rafa



### on da crt bball gt rough

Diving for the ball juniors and seniors wrestle to get their class a victory. "This year's game was more intense than the previous years," said senior Brandi Heidler.



Ali Pietrucha

### n da gym shwin spirit

During the school song, junior Sara Winiecki got the crowd cheering at the pep rally. "The pep rally is always fun, especially watching people look funny during the activities," said Winiecki.



Ali Pietrucha

### @ the schl '09 prnk wnt dwn

"The seniors wanted something for everyone to remember us by, so we decided to do something a little crazy, but without being disruptive," said senior Kellie Bubala.



Ali Pietrucha

## What was your best homecoming moment?



"My best homecoming moment would have to be at the dance. I got to dance with the one girl that I like to dance with!"

-Kyle Uglaki, 10

"I would have to say the whole pep rally was really fun. Everyone cheering and being crazy. I also had a good time at the game even though it was a blow out."

-Taylor Surowiec, 10



"Dancing with all my friends at the dance was the best. I also loved 80's work out day. It was so funny seeing everyone dressed like that."

-Jennifer Lanfear, 9



021 Remaining



Amanda Zaborowski

### n da hall gmas n gpas chillen

Juniors Trisha Monroe, Alyssa Van Horsen, and Omar Quintanilla slowly head off to class with their granny walks. "They were acting so funny," said Omar.



#### 4 the ladies

Getting in a quick workout at school, seniors Jordan Redar and Brian Story break a sweat. "We just wanted to give GHS a sneak peek of the gun show," said Redar.



Lisa Rafa

Arianna Zaborowski



Arianna Zaborowski

#### w/ buds creating Jr. shirts

"Homecoming shirts is something I do every year with my friends," said junior Amber Crook. On homecoming, students make shirts with their class year on it.

page by Morgan Morninouchi

## U rdy 4 a Thrill?

The week of September 29, 2008 was very much anticipated here at Griffith High School. The weeks preceding involved many hours of planning for clubs, students, and teachers. It is safe to say that these five days of homecoming week are the most eventful days of the school year. The events start off on Monday morning before school, when the students are getting dressed for their first spirit day. Monday was dress-up day, Tuesday was grandparents day, Wednesday was 80's workout day, Thursday was country junction, and Friday was a "blackout." This year the most popular day was 80's workout day. "I loved 80's day because I got to dress ridiculous," said sophomore Art Garcia.

As the week went on, the school spirit grew. Each class created their own plans for the upcoming days. This year, the seniors pulled a prank, but they were not the only ones. One "prank" is the tradition of stealing the cow from the Griffith Golf Center. This year the golf center was underwater due to the flood the town faced the week before homecoming. During activities day, to everyone's surprise, principal Bonnie Manuel, dressed as the panther mascot, rolled out the beloved cow. Manuel had retrieved the cow before any of the seniors even attempted to get it. "I was pretty upset. I wanted to get the cow and ruined my truck for no reason," said senior Mark Blount.

The seniors once again proved their dominance over the underclassmen by winning activities day, showing the most school spirit during spirit week, and they tied with the sophomores for best float in the homecoming parade. Following the parade, students, fans, and teachers dressed for a blackout and fled into the Boneyard to watch the Panthers overwhelmingly beat the Highland Trojans 43 to 0. Two other winners announced at the game included 2008 Homecoming king and queen, seniors Mike Scally and Keela Detmar.

The winners performed a spotlight dance the following night at this year's homecoming dance. "Scally and I spiced up the dance with some sweet dance moves," said Detmar. With over 400 students that attended the dance, the field house has never been so bumpin' as students rocked out to this year's theme, Homecoming '08 "It's a Thriller." At the end of the night, it was concluded that homecoming was officially over. Though bitter sweet for some seniors, there are still school events to look forward to, just none quite as "thrilling" as this week was for many.

# Homecoming 2008

## Homecoming Dance Facts

**What?** Black-out 'OB, It's a Thriller!

**When?** Saturday October 4th, 2008

**Where?** GHS Fieldhouse

**Cost?** \$18/single \$35/couple

**Time?** 7-10 PM Doors open at 6:30

**Sponsored by?** GHS Student Council

Delete



page b4 filled: Dixie

Save Msg



Anne Higginbotham

### b4 the game!

Pre-game: The cheerleaders, pantherettes, and band members wait on the field to help get the crowd pumped and ready for the adrenalized football team.

### out 2 eat

To continue the fun, junior Shelby Higgins went out to eat with her friends after the game. "I love homecoming because it's inexpensive and everyone's much more relaxed."



Anne Higginbotham



### havin' fun @ the dance

Enjoying the dance, seniors Mark Miecznikowski and Mike Beck strut their stuff. Miecznikowski said his favorite thing was "dancing along [junior] Jackson Buzea and his cute little bow tie."

Anne Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



Mike Blount and Keela Detmar



A Ballinger and Gina Gilge



Jenke and Mogen Momcilovich



Sean Perez and Mia Reitz



Michael Scally and Kristen Yost

#### Pumped ^ 4 the Game

The varsity football team gets together and huddles before the game. The homecoming game was against Highland, which was a 43-0 shutout victory.

#### & the winners R...

Seniors Mike Scally and Keela Detmar were crowned King and Queen for 2008. They smile for a picture after their names were announced at the dance.



Al Pietrucha



Al Pietrucha

#### 1/2 time show

The pantherettes performed at half time. "I was so excited but a little nervous because it was my first time performing as a p-ette", said freshman Renee Franker.

#### dncin' the night awy

Many students enjoyed dancing at the homecoming dance "I really enjoyed the music, getting to see all my friends and having fun," said sophomore Zach Pirtle.



Annie Higginbotham

### holding hands as they walk

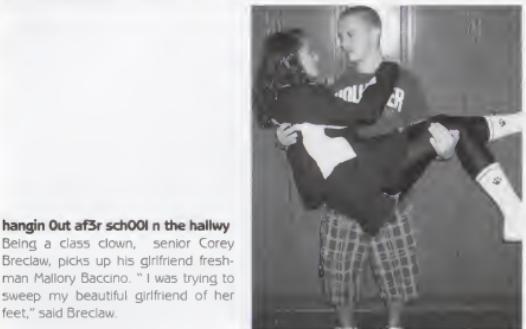
Junior Brian Brilmyer and Kelsey Hitt walk down upper H hall together. "I was yelling at him because he was swinging my hand," said Hitt.

### sitting On the bench

Making his girlfriend laugh, seniors Zack Butkus and Kristen Yost sit on the bench together. "Zack is always cracking me up, we're a funny couple," says Yost.



Jane Long



Jane Long



Jane Long

## If you could date any famous person who would it be?

David Beckham



Jessica Ritter, 11

Jessica Alba



Nick Biancardi, 11

Shia LaBeouf



Ashley Danough, 11

Angelina Jolie



Steven Gilman, 12

Taylor Swift



Mark Rex, 9

Nick Jonas



Taylor Reitz, 10



Jane Long

### talking during passing p3r.

Freshmen Nick Kudiba and Jenny Lanfear talk to each other for a few minutes during the passing period. "Me and Nick were making plans to hang out later," said Lanfear.

### piggy back ride 2 and fun class

Giving his girlfriend a piggy back ride, senior Mark Blount, carries junior Sara Winiecki. "I like it when Mark gives me piggy back rides through the hall because its easier to get to my classes," said Winiecki.



021 Remaining



Amanda Zabrowski



Jesse Long



Amanda Zabrowski



Amyrah Zabrowski

### a f3w min btwn class

Hanging out for a few minutes before their next class, junior Kyle Terpstra and freshman Brooke Brinkley talk in the stairwell. "We were chillaxing in our free time in the stairwell," said Terpstra.



page by Maitlyn Herron

## Lov3rs @nd fri3nds

Throughout your high school years, you form many different relationships with other students. Some lead to drama, some lead to good times, and some lead to love. Every student can relate.

Most of the student body at Griffith High School has been or are in a relationship. "At this age, it's like expected for you to date someone, especially throughout high school," said junior Kristen Guley.

You meet a lot of people and make friends during high school, some of those acquaintances or friendships turn into relationships. "If you find a person in high school who you really like, then be with them," said senior Nick Trauscht.

There are a lot of different personalities and people that go to this school. Some just automatically click and imagine being together forever. Since it is only high school, some people think the relationships we form, and the people we meet here are just some of the many ones we will have throughout our lives. "Keep your options open, it's a small high school and when you get into the real world you'll meet more people that have more things in common with you," says Lorraine Hageman, French.

Barry Baltrusis, junior says, "I think it's good to date during high school, but I don't think you'll find your true love or whatever."

Whether it be a friend, boyfriend, or a crush, enjoy the relationships you have with people throughout your high school years.

### during spirit wk

The couple of junior Sara Popovich and senior Jordan Radar both celebrate 80's workout day for homecoming week. "I was inviting Sara to the gun show," said Radar.



Annie Higginbotham

### pmped ^ w/ pnther pride

Fans cheering in the stand wait eagerly for the football game to begin. Many superfans paint letters on shirts to spell out a word, or for a specific person on the team. Superfanning is an excellent way to support your classmates.

### LPD

Superfanning a football game, seniors Corey Breclaw and Richie Popovich painted LPD on their body. Loyalty, pride, and dedication is the football motto. "I enjoy screaming at the other fans when I superfan," said Popovich.



Annie Higginbotham



### w@tchin the game

Watching the game, seniors Ryan Gaiher and Zack Duvnjak yell loud to try to distract the other team. "I think it helps our team when we superfan, but also, it gets the other team off their game and they listen to us!" said Gaiher.

## Which class has the biggest \* of superfans?



Juniors, because I see a lot of them dressing up and going to the games often.

-Matt Fitch, 10



Freshman, because you can find a group of them at any supporting event.

-Ellison Cullen, 9



Juniors, because we're awesome and the best there ever was.

-Barry Baltrusis, 11



Annie Higginbotham

### b3ach bums

The beachwear theme was very popular at the basketball game. Senior Greg Joyce dressed up in a yellow bikini. "I wasn't embarrassed until my football coaches saw me, then I was a little bit," said Joyce.

### go p@nthers!

Cheering for the boys' basketball team, seniors Michael Barlow and Danny Torok eagerly watch the game. "My favorite part about superfanning is talking trash to the other team to get them distracted," said Barlow.

Delete



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### surfs ^

At every game there is usually a theme that the seniors pick out. "I like dressing up in costumes, so the Halloween trick-or-treat night was my favorite theme," said senior Kevin Konopasek.



Ali Pietrucha



Annie Higginbotham



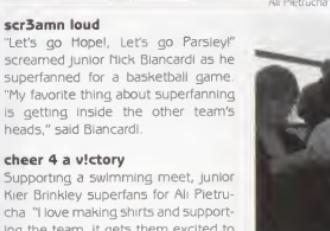
Annie Higginbotham

### scr3amn loud

"Let's go Hopel, Let's go Parsley!" screamed junior Nick Biancardi as he superfanned for a basketball game. "My favorite thing about superfanning is getting inside the other team's heads," said Biancardi.

### cheer 4 a v!ctory

Supporting a swimming meet, junior Kier Brinkley superfans for Ali Pietrucha. "I love making shirts and supporting the team, it gets them excited to play," said Brinkley.



page by Jillian Dixon

## Pride & Spirit = Superfan

What's loud, crazy, and black and gold all over? A Panther superfan! Superfanning can be one of the most exciting and easiest ways to get involved and show school spirit. The students at GHHS superfan at many sports such as: football, basketball, baseball, track, soccer, softball, and wrestling.

"I enjoy superfanning a lot because it shows my true love for this school. I superfan everything from chess club to football games and I usually paint my body or dress funny," said senior Corey Breclaw.

A superfan is a person who paints their body or makes a shirt and attends a sporting event to cheer on the team and show support.

"I remember when me and [senior] Corey [Breclaw] went shirtless to the freezing homecoming game my sophomore year, it was the best," said junior Patrick Ruesken.

Superfanning is not only thrilling, but it is even more enjoyable when you superfans with a group.

"I love getting all dressed up and being able to do whatever and not be judged; I mostly superfans with Taylor Long and Trisha Monroe, but sometimes more cheerleaders," said sophomore Taylor Surowiec.

"My favorite thing is getting ready with my friends before the games; it's a lot of fun," said freshman Sarah Guistolis.

Superfanning can be a great way to spend time with your friends and also cheer on your classmates.



Ali Pietrucha

"Man! I usually go clubbin'. Me and my friends go to Lake Village a lot."

## wk-nd plans?



-Jason Villalpando, 11



-Kylee Uhl, 10



-Ali Kiltner, 12  
I work, wash the Boz smell off, then I'll spend the next 48 hours with my favorite people.

"I relax, do laundry, grocery shop, clean the house. I'm a pretty lame guy."



-Scott MacFarland, business

"I hang with Chrissy (Colgrove) a lot. We do weird things, drive around, dance in the car."



-Hanna Vrabely, 9  
"I hang out with my friends, yeah, I hang with them a lot, and I hang out with Ryan."



021 remaining

## rok n roll d00d!

Rock Band is a favorite among teens, and freshman Garrett Walter knows how to rock out. "I was totally on a sugar high and went completely psycho!" Walter spent the night battling with friends.



Rachel Garash

## wait, wht?!

Weekends are kids ways of relaxing, or going crazy. Everyone looks forward to Friday night, and sleeping in Saturday morning. "There is no school on Saturday and no homework until Sunday. I hate waking up early and having no extra sleeping time," says senior Mark Bulkus.



All Pietrucha



Caroline Herrera

## luv is N da air <3

Sometimes, crazy things happen, and you just have to sit back and watch. "We were just sitting around relaxing, watching senior Tyler Gustamonte duct tape senior Larry Matovina to a chair. It was a great time," explains senior Brandon Rukes with girlfriend Melissa Pilow.

## taco bell & moonin?

"We randomly decided to go to taco bell to get food, and ended up mooning the people in the other car," laughs junior Dylan Moulesong. Swim parties can get pretty crazy.



Rachel Garash





Ali Pietrucha

#### so, wht game r u playn?

Hanging out at junior Ali Pietrucha's birthday party, junior Kier Brinkley plays a crazy game of Taboo. "My favorite part was screaming 'time' whenever the time was up," explains Brinkley.



page by Kiera Gragido

## wnt 2 pty?

The Friday afternoon bell rings, kids stampede out of their last hour class hopeful for the weekend. Whether it's a crazy party, or a weekend relaxing in the comfort of our own home, weekends are something kids look forward to, starting Monday morning. "I'm not a real big fan of Mondays, Tuesdays, or any day of the week that isn't Friday or Saturday," said junior Carissa Robbins.

People look forward to the weekend just to get away from the normal school routine. Every Monday, it's up at 6 o'clock and off to a grueling day at school. As you watch the clock tick by, you can't help but think of the next four days ahead of you. "Mondays really are a drag, if school started later, I wouldn't hate it as much," explains senior Alex Little.

Some people use the weekend to get ahead in homework, or to play sports. "I usually play football against other towns, I work out a lot, I just try to have fun I guess," explains senior Michael Barlow.

Sundays are filled with sleep, church, homework, and just pure relaxation. "I use Sundays as a way to catch up on the homework I put off all weekend. I mean, I can't just do my homework on Friday, ya know?" said junior Emily Million.

There are those unfortunate few who spend their weekends working hard. Some kids push their plans to the side in order to get that money. "I work a lot, so I'm usually not surprised when I can't hang out with my friends because of my job, it's alright though, but at least I have lots of money," said junior Catie Drechny.



Anne Fleggenbierch



Anne Fleggenbierch

#### clownin 'round

It's a usual favorite to go out to eat after dances. It's a time to wind down, talk about the night, and to get a little crazy! Junior Kalynn Ruiz heads to Red Robin after homecoming. "We were just eating and goofing off."

#### hangin out, chit chattin

Just standing around talking politics, seniors Nick Udzitz and Brandon Clark question their discussion. "We were wondering why the heck we were talking about politics," states Udzitz.



page by Elizabeth Biancardi

## Dnt B L8 4 Wrk!

**M**ost teens are faced with balancing a job into their schedule at some point during their teenage years. Usually, this means waking up at the crack of dawn to go to school, going home just to have to go to work, coming home again, and yet somehow managing to find time to hang out with friends and, of course, do homework. Miraculously, it's possible!

True, teens get sick of working long hours, but completely hating having a job is totally false. For some reason, high school students actually just don't like to admit they enjoy their job. What fun would it be if you couldn't complain about working to your friends who still have to borrow money from Mommy and Daddy. It just tears away from the complete facade.

"I like most of the people I work with, but the best part is being asked how the food is. I'm a vegetarian, so I can't give a straight answer to customers," said senior Ali Kitner of her job at Boz Hot Dogs, where she "dresses the hot dogs" as she says.

"My favorite part about working at Varsity Sports is working with people my age, and helping people who come in," said sophomore Katie Biancardi.

Then again, there are those who like their job, but hate working.

"Slacking off is my favorite part about working at Strack's," said senior Lexi Bozinovich.

Students will get jobs for all sorts of reasons, but the most obvious, of course, is for cold, hard cash.

"I work at Fresh Start Counseling. I started because my mom is friends with the owner, and I needed money for car payments," said sophomore Kristen Pospyschala.

"I started working over a year ago because my friend had a job at Boz, and I was desperate for moolah. It seems to have slowly slipped away though," said Kitner.

Having a job isn't all fun and games though. There is a time when responsibility has to set in.

"I'm glad I started working because it will give me experience for when I'm older and have a real career," concluded Pospyschala.

### rdy 4 wrk

Senior Lexi Bozinovich, who bags groceries for customers at Strack's, said, "My dad suggested working here, because I needed money."



Caroline Herrera



Caroline Herrera

### @ fresh start counseling center

"[Sophomore] Kristen [Pospyschala] and I were filling papers, but most of our time is spent on the computers," said junior Sarah Winiecki while at work.

### wrking hard

Making an order for a customer, junior Ashley Robinson said with a sigh, "I was serving them dinner at the busiest time of night."





Caroline Herrera

#### n k-mart

Senior Michael Noojin, who was checking out a customer during work, said, "I like meeting nice people because it brightens my day."

#### jst 4 fun

Goofing off, sophomore Katie Biancardi said, "Ashley Darrough and I were bored at work, so we decided to have a bat fight." They both work at Varsity Sports on Broad Street



Caroline Herrera

#### dring his work hrs

Sweeping the floor at Dairy Queen, senior Kenny Companik said, "My favorite part of my job is that I get to work with my best friend."



Caroline Herrera



Caroline Herrera

#### c u @ wrk

"At Boz, the hours aren't terrible and I like most of the people I work with," said senior Ali Kitner, who usually is making the hot dogs.

## Wat's ur dream job?

"to be lawyer"

- Kalie Lastagarkov, 9



"to design for a magazine  
like Seventeen"

- Sara McInerney, 11



"to be a rockstar"

- Brittany Anderson, 9



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page by Brooke Trueblood

## Will U Go 2 TB w/ M3?

**T**urnabout is a tradition that has been at GHS for several years. It's usually held in mid winter by the sophomore class for freshmen through seniors. This year, the theme for this special night was "You and Me." Held on January 30th, at Avalon Manor. Walking into the room, decorated in light blue and silver, freshman Mallory Baccino was in awe. "Walking in, I got really excited! Everything looked awesome!" said Baccino. When asked about her favorite part of Turnabout, "the best part was definitely the dancing!"

Everyone seemed to enjoy the song selection this year. They played everything from "Cupid Shuffle" to Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer." Senior Mia Reitz said, "The music the DJ played was pretty good, I thought." Every year, the sophomore class votes on a prince and princess of the dance. This year's court consisted of sophomores Jack Blount, Brian Orezchowicz, Cody Modglin, Art Garcia, and Calvin Bonewits. The ladies of the court were sophomores Natalie Aguilera, Samantha Marker, Brooke Trueblood, Taylor Reitz, and Micky Hunez. When all the votes were tallied, the results were Brian Orezchowicz for prince and Brooke Trueblood for princess.

At ten o'clock, when the lights came back on and the last dance had been danced, it didn't mean that the night was over. Students usually go out to dinner and to someone's house for the after party. A popular choice for restaurants is heading up to Chicago, but people also enjoy going to restaurants around the area. "My group went to Boston's afterward. It was really good; the whole night was a blast!" said freshman Brooke Brinkley.

### Shak3 It, Shak3 It

Listening to a great song and dancing along, sophomore Micky Hunez said "Dancing with all my friends was definitely the best part of Turnabout!"

### W3're almost th3re!

While waiting for their limo, freshmen Ellison Cullen and Kelsey Bonewits share a laugh. "We were all getting anxious for the limo! We were jacked to dance," said Bonewits.



Rachel Soderstrom



photo provided

### Just a lil' mak3-

"I was getting my make-up done by my friend that I work with," said junior Sara McInerney, trying her hardest to sit still while her friend put some mascara on.



Photo provided

### Say Ch33se!

Dancing in the limo, freshman Katina Root sings along with the music. "I was also trying to take a picture of Kelsey [Bonewitz] and Melissa [Miller]," said Root.

### G3ttin' dwn with ya Bad S3lf

Dancing the night away, seniors Jordan Redar and Shelby Bollek sway to the music. "My last Turnabout was really memorable and Jordan was a great dancer," said Bollek.



Rachel Garabik

### Get ur Hair Did

Patiently waiting to see the end result of her hair, freshman Emilee Trueblood looks at a hair book for ideas. "It was really exciting getting ready for my first Turnabout," said Trueblood.



Brooke Trueblood

### A Hit3 to R3m3rber...

To describe how he spent his night at Turnabout, junior Jerry Sharpe smiled and said, "It was a great dance and I had a really nice time, and Natalie [Aguilera] looked beautiful."



Natalie Aguilera

### How Much SSSS?

1	2	3
Actress Natalie, 9	Taylor Renz, 10	Michele Lesnienski, 9
<b>A. \$75.00</b>	<b>B. Borrowed</b>	<b>C. \$202.00</b>

30 02 00



021 Remaining



Jake Long

**grubbin dOwn**

A junior group after turnout stayed local to get dinner. Junior Steven Kepchar's group went to Boston's. "It was a great time. Our group did get into a little food fight," said Kepchar.

**on th3 danc3 flOOr**

"My senior turnout was a great one to end with," said senior Ashley Davis. "Everything turned out the way I wanted it to," said Davis. Davis went with junior Nick Blanardi to turnout. "He was a great date, and handsome," said Davis.



Reese Huggins/Phant

## Favorit3 Danc3 Mov3?



I would have to say any different version of 'Cotton Eye Joe' that many people make up because everyone has a different version. It's interesting to see them all happening at the same time on the dance floor.

-Jeremy Starks, 10



I always bust out my granny moves on the dance floor. Everyone looks at me like I am crazy, but they're the ones missing out.

-Mallory Baccino, 9



"Reeling in Mrs. Manual on the dance floor, it's how I get all the ladies to dance with me."

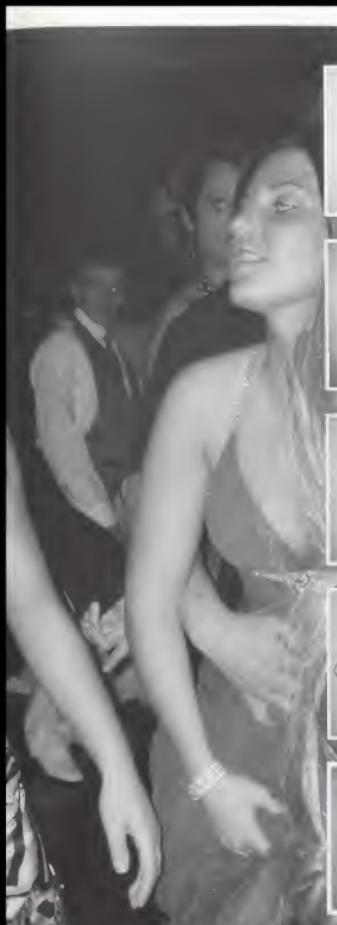
-Corey Breckaw, 12

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Nara Gragaj

**@ th3 danc3**

"The best part of the night for me was dancing with my girlfriend Lauren (Hansen)," said Junior Jake Evanich. "I busted a move on the dance floor and made sure I was on the floor for the best song... 'Get Low,'" said Evanich.



Annie Higginbotham



Natalie Rogners and Jack Blount



Sam Meeker and Calvin Boncuits



Nicky Nunez and Art Garcia



Taylor Reitz and Cody Medglin



Brooke Trustwood and Brian Ozrenovich



Annie Higginbotham



Renee Flock

### m33t u on da dance floor

"Dancing with Brian Little was the best part of the night. We tore up the dance floor with our moves," said senior Mark Miecznikowski. "Junior year was the best year though because Jake Evanich won prince," said Miecznikowski.

### waitin 4 da r3sults

While senior Corey Breclaw looks out, others wait to see who will win prince and princess. "I was ecstatic that Brooke and Brian won," said sophomore Kyra Scheerling. "I've known Brooke for a long time and Brian is awesome. They're great," said Scheerling.



Annie Higginbotham

### w/ p33ps dacing th3 night away

"I went with my friends to turnabout this year," said senior Lexi Bozovich. "It was great because I didn't have to stay by a date the whole night," said Bozovich. Students were all around dancing the night away.

### makin it HOTT

Sitting at House of Kobe, sophomores get toasty. The restaurant made their dinner right in front of them. "It was a blast because the guys were joking with our cook," said sophomore Taylor Reitz.

### b3 min3... <3

On Valentine's Day, junior Ashley Darragh's locker was filled with animals and candy. "They were from my boyfriend." She added, "Me and Presley [Corich] played dodgeball with them that day."



page by Lisa Rafa

## Holidays ...

Throughout the year there are many different holidays. For example, over the summer everyone gets to enjoy the 4th of July. When we are back in school, there are holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras.

Some of these holidays are a big part of a student's school year (mainly because we get a break on the bigger ones "cough"). Holidays don't only provide a break for us during the school year, but they also give people time to go on vacation and get away for a while.

Holidays give students something to do after sitting around in school for a few weeks. It is a much anticipated time by many because it means that there is a day that you don't have to get up in the morning and get ready to come to class.

When asked what her favorite thing about the holidays was, freshman Brianna Jones said, "Getting time to spend with my family and the food is always good." She, like many other students, enjoys spending time with other family members.

Certain people enjoy different holidays as well. Although just about everyone likes holidays, there is a difference in which holiday can be considered their "favorite". When asked, sophomore Brian Jones said, "Christmas because I get gifts, and I get to spend time with my family."

Holiday breaks are always exciting for students as well. For many, a holiday is looked at as a time to spend with family and friends. For others, it is just a time to get away from the usual routine.

"I like that it's time for us to relax and just kind of chill and not have to be so uptight about what's going on," said sophomore Nicole Poole.

No matter what your reasoning may be, holidays are widely enjoyed. Without them there would be less time to get together with family and friends and fewer breaks from school.



Caroline Hererra



Lisa Rafa

### bling bling

Standing around, junior Jake Anderson is talking. "I was talking to my friends about the 'no pockets on sweatshirts' and seeing what everyone was doing for Mardi Gras on the half day," he said.



### sp@rkly

On the Fourth of July, senior Brooke Studniarz is enjoying herself. "I was at Fran's (Frances Pietrucha) house and we were playing with sparklers on the Fourth of July," she stated.

### X-mas tIm3

Before class, sophomore Jeremy Starks puts a gift into the stocking. "I think that having Christmas parties, even in high school, helps relieve the stress that you get when you're on a yearbook or newspaper staff," said Starks.



All Pietrucha

All Pietrucha

### If u cud hav a holiday onc3 a month, wat wud it b3?



"If I could have a holiday once a month it would be 'National Praise Larry Day' because after 27, 28, 29, or 30 days of strenuous labor I feel as if everyone should just praise me for a day."

-Larry Matovina, 12

"Halloween because it's a cool holiday."

-Cody Tripp, 10



"I wish April Fool's Day was once a month, but the thing is, it's every day of my life."

-Ashley Robinson, 11

### 021 Remaining



—



Raquele Mazur

### X-mas p@rty :D

Attempting to open a gift, sophomore Casey McDaniel is struggling. "That was our annual Christmas party," she said. "That was the present wrapped in duct tape that I was cutting my way through," she added.

### h@ppy bd@y

With the rest of the day in mind, junior Erica Edwards opens her locker. "Melissa Stadnik and Kimberlee Swender decorated my locker during Mr. C's (Covarrubias) class. Kim even drew a hippo, which is my favorite," she said.

### per4ming @ sp0oky 1/2 time

During a performance on Halloween night, the band, along with freshman Alyssa Hlewadowski, walked into a parade block to perform. "I liked the song and wearing the costume," she stated.



Reenie Riggan-Bolton



Bethany Sauer



page by Kara Gragido

## U look 2 cute. :)

You walk into school, and it's no longer just a hallway, it's a runway. From high fashion girls, to carefree boys, the school is a place to strut your stuff, and to show 'em what you got.

Junior Jessica Ritter explains school and the way people dress to impress. "I try to look my best everyday. I mean, who doesn't though? People have appearances to keep up, you can't just come to school a mess." You look down the hallways and you can see the beauty in every outfit.

As this is a very true statement for most, many teens just do not care about what they wear. "It doesn't really matter what I throw on in the morning. As long as I'm comfortable, 'style' isn't really a huge issue," explains junior Jane Hurdish. Right along with Hurdish, senior Michael Scally just "throws on whatever is next to me in the morning."

Whether you dressed up, or down, the way you dress can make a first impression. People can either smile, or turn up their noses. A person's clothing can show you what mood they are in, or who that person is. "I try to wear what is in style, but still find bargains. I feel like the clothes I wear need to be a good representative of who I am," says junior Ashley Darrough.

Fashion at school doesn't just show off what you are wearing, it shows how you feel about yourself. Confidence is key no matter what you are wearing! If you think you look good, than by all means, you look great! So keep those cute clothes on and your head up! :)



Amanda Zaborowski



Ariella Zaborowski

### im feelin a bit cra-z!

Students everywhere are into animal print and exotic designs. "Whenever I wear my zebra print shirt, it makes me want to pull out a megaphone and yell the mating call of a zebra," laughed junior Daniela Alvarez.

### wutz the weather?

While looking good is an obvious must, students (and teachers) should learn to dress for the weather. "I'm pretty casual. If it's cold, I wear sweaters," said sophomore Jessica Domanski.

### hOW ya feelin, whatchu wearin?

What's your mood for the day? How are you feeling? Does what you wear reflect your mood? "I usually dress depending on how I feel. If I'm feeling bummed, I'll wear sweatpants and boots," said freshman Jiani Rivera.



Amanda Zaborowski

### **gotta check myself in da mirror.**

You don't have to dress up, and spend hours on yourself to look nice, and feel good. "I'm confident in myself, I usually just wear comfortable jeans, cute shoes, and a cute top," said Kaliyn Ruiz, junior.



Amanda Zaborowski

### **Yer lookin' good, hawtstuff, whatcha wearin'?**



Anna Johnson, 12

"I try to look classy, yet still feel comfortable in what I wear."



Jeff Goliczak, 11

"I don't know, let me think about it... fresh, yeah, let's go with fresh and clean."



Wilson Pospisil, 10

"I go for an outfit that is cute, that I feel comfortable and confident in."



Mark Reid, 9

"I guess, like whatever is comfortable, I wear a lot of Abercrombie, like, nice dressed, I'm pretty laid back."

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Amanda Zaborowski

### **let's go shoppin'!!!**

Sometimes, shopping at the right places can make all the difference. "My favorite store to shop at is Forever 21 because they have a lot of different clothes that no one else wears," explained senior Sammi Holmes.

### **hey! what R u wearin' 2day?**

Sometimes your outfit doesn't depend on your mood, sometimes your mood depends on your outfit. "I try to dress comfy, but also presentable because if I look nice, I feel good," said Alex Latronica, sophomore.



Amanda Zaborowski



### @ the game

A serious football fan, sophomore Maggie Butkus said, "I go to all of the games and take pictures of my boyfriend [senior Brad Hardin] and my brothers."



Ali Pietrucha

### ardy 2 rock

"We were playing the song 'Mine in the Afternoon' on expert, and of course we won because Bobo [Nick Bobowski] was singing like a god," said junior Jackson Buzea.

### n the stands

Junior Kyle Terpstra and senior Zack Duvnjak text away on their phones during a football game. "I'm always on my phone like ugly on Brian Brimley," said Terpstra.



Jake Long



## What do high school students use more?



"I use my computer the most."  
- Katie Cahill, 10



"I use the computer and play video games a lot."

- Nick Kudyba, 9



"I'm always on my cell phone."  
- Bailey Curtis, 12



021 Remaining



Ali Pietrucha

### aft3r school

Playing a game of Wii Tennis after school at her house, freshman Stephanie Brandner said, "I play Wii because I dominate everyone."



Ali Pietrucha



#### **n the hallway**

Listening to his iPod before school, junior Matt Beck said, "I listen to all kinds of music except country. I don't like country at all."



Ali Pietrucha

Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha

#### **@ the computer**

"I like working with computers, and I use them a lot to fix my page for newspaper," said junior Sara McInerney, sports and copy editor for the school newspaper.

#### **on2 the nxt level**

Playing a game on her Nintendo DS, junior Meghan Macak said, "Whenever I get bored or want to relax, I just play a game and it takes my mind off things."



page by Elizabeth Biancardi

## **A world of t3chnology**

Since the Industrial Revolution, the human population in America progressed into a more modern way of living. Along with this, is technology. Technology is used throughout the world and is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes especially in an industry. Whether it be the use of computers, a new high-tech gadget, or texting one's friend; people use technology everyday without even realizing it.

Students here at Griffith High School are surrounded by the use of technology. "I think it's really cool that we have so many computer labs in the school," said sophomore Taylor Surowiec. "It gives all of us [students] a chance to get familiar with new things that are coming out."

Every day, new, must-have gadgets hit the stores, and teenagers are the first to get their hands on them. The majority of teenagers, even children and adults, own an iPod or music player. Many others own such devices as cameras, fancy cell phones, and small hand-held games, like a Nintendo DS or PSP.

"I like having my PSP because there are good games that I can play on it, and it has a big screen. It also can do things like play music, videos, hold pictures, and I can surf the internet," said junior Dylan Moulesong. "It's really neat because you can play it whenever, even in class, and no one can tell."

There is always something going on around the school allowing students to interact with technology. In Scott MacFarland's Digital Communications Tools Class the students are able to work with palm pilots. "They are a device that a lot of students aren't familiar with. They are cool and fun for the students. I think our technology is good here at GH5, but I wish we had the ability to upgrade," said MacFarland.

Senior Brian Story uses his cell phone whenever he gets a chance outside of school. "I use about 250 to 300 texts a day. I text my friends about what the plans are for that night or the weekend. I even text my family sometimes," said Story.

Text messaging is a shorter, easier way to write anything to anyone in a small amount of time. Many new phones have come out with keyboards similar to a computer's and have the ability to surf the web.



page by Kristi Buxton and Elizabeth Blanchard

## Show us what U've got

This year's coffee night was held on October 15. Chorale, along with Eddie Covarrubias, choir director, held coffee night to raise money for their trip to the Bahamas. Also, to help raise money, they sold concessions. The atmosphere at coffee night was calm and relaxed. All the performers participated for fun, because there was no competition involved. The many acts ranged from singing, playing an instrument, to a comedy act.

"I learned the songs pretty fast, and I wasn't nervous. The only bad part was that my guitar string broke a half hour before we were about to perform," said freshman Jimmy Gaydos, who performed three Coldplay songs with two of his friends.

"[Juniors] Erica Edwards, Maddy Goodman, and I sang '9 Crimes' by Damien Rice. I was incredibly nervous because we had only practiced with [junior] Eric [Brumley], who played guitar for us once before," said junior Valerie Scholte.

Another event that is popular is the annual Pan-therapalooza, known as the talent show. It was held on March 29 this year. Student council sponsors the talent show. They chose a variety of acts, so the students can show off their talent, and compete for a prize.

This year there were three winners. First prize of \$150 was won by junior Michelle Velez who sang and played guitar to "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. Second place, of \$100, went to Picked Last in Gym Class, a band consisting of juniors Eric Brumley and Montana Kroslick, and sophomore Justin Camp, who played "All The Small Things" by Blink 182. Fifty dollars for third place went to sophomore Martin Bowman for a guitar solo.

"I think I did good overall. I had practiced for a month to get my guitar solo right. As for the \$50, I haven't spent it. I'm saving it up," said Bowman.

Both events overall were a success.

### singing @ coffee night

Junior Chrissy Leslie likes to sing in front of a lot of people, and thought it would be a good experience to sing for Coffee Night. "I practiced a lot to prepare for the performance," said Leslie.

### d@nce ur <3 out

Dancing since she was three, senior Morgan Morcillovich performed a ballet solo. "I worked all year on this solo for competition. This was a way to show off what I can do," Morcillovich said.



Morgan Morcillovich



Caroline Herrera





Ali Pietrucha

#### it's a luv story

Practicing for two hours everyday for her performance payed off. Junior Michelle Velez won first prize in the talent show. "The best part was hearing the crowd; it was overwhelming, and I wasn't nervous," said Velez.



Ali Pietrucha

#### playin' piano

Performing for the talent show was junior Jose Cisneros's idea, but then his friends joined. "I wanted to play by myself to try to win. Then, [junior] Jimmy Burch had the idea for a band," said Cisneros.



Caroline Herrera

#### ready 2 sing

All four years senior Codie Olar has performed at coffee night. "I decided to do it because it's fun and nice to see other acts, and I wanted to see if other people would like me too," said Olar.



Ali Pietrucha

#### & th3 winner is...

After announcing the winner, junior Eric Brumley congratulates junior Michelle Velez with a hug. "I thought she sounded very good and deserved to win," said Brumley, who sang and played guitar.



Caroline Herrera

#### just 4 fun

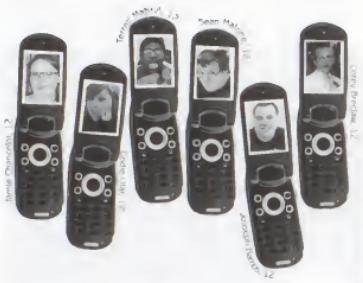
Every year chorale holds Coffee Night as a fundraiser for the annual trip they take. "I decided to perform because I like to sing, and Kyle offered to play for me," said sophomore Amy Zellers.

mtch em ^!

1.Kylee Uilm, 10 and Nicole Poole, 10	A.guitar solo
2.Mike Scally, 12	B.drum solo
3.Clarence Young, 10	C.vocal duet
4.Greg Brock, 12	D.piano and vocal solo

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ANSWER: 4 3 2 1 5 6 7 8 9 10



page by Samantha McInerney and Brooke Trueblood

## Can i hav this d@nce?

Prom is the biggest event of the school year. Whether you're a lucky junior or a senior, prom is definitely something that all the students look forward to each year. This year it was held on May 1st at Halls of Saint George. Picture hour was from 6 to 7. There were many parents and friends there to take pictures.

The theme for the junior/senior prom this year was "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing," by Aerosmith. Color choice for the dance was "sunset," which consisted of yellow, turquoise, orange, pink, and purple. A new aspect added this year was the "grand march," that was cancelled due to a lack of sign-ups for it.

Most students really enjoyed this year's prom. "The best part of prom was dancing, but it was a little hard because of my dress," freshman Jianni Rivera said.

For some people, the fun really started after the dance was over. "The best part of prom was going to Kono's [Kevin Konopasek] cabin, where Brandon Clark taught me how to fish and I caught one," said Junior Brian Little. "It was pretty big."

Everyone seems to agree that dancing was the best part of the dance. "I loved the dancing, but the music definitely sucked," said sophomore Jonathan Acevedo. This years DJ was Dr. Sounds Good.

Although this music wasn't the best, there were very crazy dance moves on the dance floor. Senior Corey Breclaw was an example of this. "I loved dancing with my beautiful girlfriend and dancing the night away by doing the cry baby on the dance floor," said Breclaw.

"My most memorable moment was dancing to 'Forever' with Torok, Shawny, and Bobo," said junior Johnny Kantor.

### Zzz.. @ dinner

At Round the Clock, junior Sara Popovich waits for her food. "The best part [of prom] was dancing because I was there with all my friends," said Popovich.

### "rollin' on the river"

The DJ played a special song just for the Chorale. "I got to have an amazing night with my best friends before we all went off to college", said senior and chorale member Michelle Plucinski.



Morgan Mornichovitch



Amanda Zaborowski



Jillian Dixon

### almost r3ady....!

Patiently waiting for her hair to be just right, junior Jessica Breclaw was anxious for her junior prom to begin. "It took probably around three hours to get all the way ready," said Breclaw. "I was really happy with the end result of my hair."



### :) 4 the camera

"I loved seeing everyone all dressed up," said junior Sara Winiecki. Waiting in line for professional pictures was the perfect time to get pictures with your friends. "My favorite part was dancing silly with my friends," said Winiecki.



Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha

### can i hav3 this danc5?

To describe his night, junior Devon Moseley said, "I had the most fun dancing with my girlfriend and friends, but the dance floor was ridiculous. You bumped someone every time you moved."

### pics take for3ver!

"I hated picture time because it was too long," said junior Madeline Goodman. Goodman was chatting in the lobby of the hall with friends junior Erica Edwards, and freshman Robert Stevens.



Raquel Fazur

## Match their fav dancin song!

A) "Under Pressure"- Queen

1) Vivian Perez, 11

B) "Boom Boom Pow"- Black Eyed Peas

3) Brandi Heidler, 12

C) "Satisfaction"- Benny Benassi

4) Larry Matovina, 12

D) "Baby Got Back"- Sir Mix A Lot

Answers: 1) C, 2) D, 3) B, 4) A

021 Remaining

### waitin 'n line...

Checking in before prom, junior Jeremy Hardin and freshman Andee Gonzalez give their ticket number to sponsor Teresa Carstensen, math. "I had a great time dancing with my girlfriend," said Hardin.

Ali Pietrucha

37



Annie Higginbotham

### a rid3 on th3 l@k3

Out in the middle of Lake Chapman Is seniors Annie Higginbotham and Greg Joyce. "Going to my grandparents' cabin after prom was a good way to end my senior year," said Joyce.



Annie Higginbotham

### just d@nc3!

"I loved dancing with my friends all night and acting goofy with them," said senior Irma Solis. The dance floor was full of people getting down at Prom.



Taylor Long, 11

## The cost of 1 night

### How do costs compare?



Tod Basham, 12

Turp \$ 120.00  
Hair Cut Free  
Tickets \$ 75.00  
Flowers \$ 50.00  
Activities \$ 15.00

Total \$ 260.00



Taylor Long, 11

Dress \$ 200.00  
Hair \$ 45.00  
Tanning \$ 70.00  
Shoes \$ 65.00  
Jewelry \$ 65.00  
Make-up Free

Total \$ 445.00

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### r0w, r0w, r0w ur bo@t

Taking a long, canoe ride at the Long's cabin after prom is juniors Nick Biancardi, Kyle Carter, and Steven Kepchar. "The day after prom was a blast. We canoed all day," said Kepchar.



Kaitlyn Sudac and Peter Sepulveda



Meghan Macak and Jake Evenich



Ashley Borrough and Matt Beck



Sara McKinney and Steven Kepchak



Kier Brinkley and Barry Baltuski



Annie Higginbotham

### pictur3 tim3

Flashes are everywhere at the beginning of prom because everyone looks their best. "It was good seeing all my friends dressed up and I had a blast," said senior DJ Roach.



Morgan Memikovich

### goin' fishin'

Many groups went to cabins the day after prom for the last day of relaxation. "I didn't catch any fish because I was too busy teaching others how to," said senior Brandon Clark.



Ali Pietrucha

### dinn3r tim3

"My favorite part about prom was the food because I love to eat," said junior Amanda Valtierra. Dinner consisted of chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, mostaccioli, and salad.

Taking a quick break in the lobby and relaxing with friends is junior Anthony Marker. "Prom was altogether great, but the most important part is being with friends," said Marker.



Ali Pietrucha



page by Carolyn Obermeyer

## Pretty quick

No matter how long the fourth quarter may seem to last, when looking back at your time in high school, it goes by pretty quick. One minute, you are a naive little freshman, the next, you are a big bad senior, the group in charge. But then, senior year flies by and it's over before you know it. First comes the senior banquet, and then the graduation ceremony, and then that's it, everything is over.

Graduation took place in the main gym on Sunday, May 31st, at 2:00 p.m. As the music played and the graduates entered, everyone in the sweltering heat of the gym applauded and snapped as many pictures as they possibly could. There were cameras flashing everywhere.

Bonnie Manuel, principal, started off commencement with a speech looking back on the year, remembering the '09 is FINE flyers covering the hallways during homecoming and the furniture placed throughout the school on April Fool's Day. She ended her speech telling the senior class she was proud of them and to "have a panther-rific day."

Next up was senior and Salutatorian Ashleigh Johnson's speech. She acknowledged that all of the girls looked similar to Big Bird, and cracked jokes about writing her speech last minute. After Johnson, Valedictorian Melissa Pilipow gave her speech with shout-outs to her parents and best friends.

Senior class president Michael Beck ended the speeches with one of his own explaining that the senior class was really the best class GHS had ever seen.

After all the speeches had been given, the seniors lined up to accept the covers of their diplomas, shaking the hands of the principal, school board, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and Russ Radtke, senior sponsor. Once everyone had walked across the stage, Pete Morikis, Superintendent, allowed the seniors to advance their tassels to the left side. Commencement was over, and the senior class moved to the fieldhouse to accept their diplomas and throw their caps.

In a flash it was all over; parents continued snapping more pictures of their graduates and their friends. People were everywhere: the fieldhouse, the hallways, and even the auditorium. Slowly, the school began to empty, the heat began to subside, the seniors began to realize that it was all really over, and that it all went by pretty quick.

### frm the rite 2 the left

After receiving the covers to their diplomas, Superintendent Pete Morikis announced, "Seniors, you may advance your tassels." The seniors anxiously moved their tassels from the right side to the left, and then headed to the fieldhouse to collect their diplomas.

### finally a graduate

When the final names were read, the seniors began to get even more anxious and excited about receiving their diplomas. The senior class was not allowed to toss their caps into the air until they were inside the fieldhouse.



All Pietrucha



Anne Higginbotham

### banquet = food

With seniors scurrying out of the banquet, seniors Chrissy Obermeyer and Frances Pietrucha stop to talk before they leave. "I had to ask Fran what we were going to do with the senior superlatives for the yearbook before I left," explained Obermeyer.





Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha

### comm3nc3m3nt

As the band began to play, the senior class entered the gym in two separate lines. On the last day of school, the seniors spent over two hours practicing the way they would walk in to the graduation ceremony.

### think u, thnk u, thnk u

Shaking the hand of assistant Superintendent Gary Sutton, senior Morgan Moncivovich makes her way to the end of the stage. On the stage, the principal, superintendents and members of the school board stood to shake the hand of each graduate.



Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha

### hurry ^ & gimme my diploma!

Before they were given the covers for their diplomas, the seniors lined up row by row and waited anxiously for their name to be called. After everyone had been called up, the graduates went to the fieldhouse to accept their actual diplomas.

### sp33ch aft3r sp33ch

Once the salutatorian had given her speech, it was valedictorian and senior Melissa Pilipow's turn. She ended her speech using clichés as her advice to the graduating class.

## s3nior stuff ☺

- Best Dressed- Hillary Baccino & Austin D'Neal
- Most Athletic- Brendi Heidler & Mark Blount
- Most Dramatic- Catherine Hus & Lang Matovina
- Most Likely to be Late to Graduation- Kristen Yost & Mark Blount
- Best to Bring Home to Mom and Dad- Eric Foddy & Brandon Rukes
- Looks Most Different from 9th Grade- Clete Thompson
- Most Likely to Live in Griffith forever- Kristen Yost & Matt Zemanski
- Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class- Alex Polk & Greg Joyce
- Biggest Bruin Noso- Catherine Hus & Krafie Bobela & Lang Matovina
- Most Likely to Become Famous- Ali Kinner & Mark Bolots
- Most Likely to Succeed- Melissa Pilipow & Mark Blount
- Best Personality- Annie Wigginbottom & Tod Basham
- Most School Spirit- Annie Wigginbottom & Corey Breckaw
- Biggest Creeper- Kristie George & Nichole Popovich
- Most Likely to Brighten your Day- Kristen Yost & Tony Solivais & Mike Connors
- Most Involved- Morgan Moncivovich & Mike Beck
- Most Unique- Chelsie Bogen & Mike Scally
- Class Clown- Keala Detmar & Damon Tork
- Worst Car- Coni Jeng & Garrett White
- Best But- Mike Heitz & Jeff Melton
- Best Hair- Himes Johnson & Mike Scally
- Best Smile- Himes Johnson & Kevin Konopasch
- Priciest Eyes- Stacy Stazak & Kyle Lidster
- Most Sarcastic- Lindsay Brandau & Nick Udeahitz
- Friendliest- Kristen Yost & Mark Blount
- Cutest Couple- Kristen Yost & Zack Butkus
- Most Musical- Ali Kinner & Mike Beck
- Biggest Pantier- Mary Branker & Justin Kelley
- Biggest Gossipier- Frances Pietrucha & Sean Perez

Class Flower  
Stargazer Lily

### Class Motto

We came as strangers, we stay as friends,  
we leave with memories that will never end.

Glass Song:  
*"Here's to the Night"* by Eve 6

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The hills next week is  
gunna be great.

-Shelby Boilek, 12

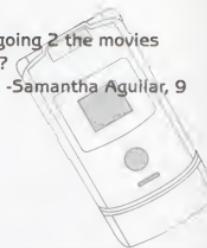


R we gunna hang out?  
-Derek Revis, 10



R we going 2 the movies  
Friday?

-Samantha Aguilar, 9



#### @ the mtng

Deep in conversation at the sophomore class council meeting, sophomore Amanda Clark talks with other members. "We were deciding on a song for turnabout. We also will pick out colors for the dance and anything else regarding Turnabout," said Clark.



Annie Higgins/Clem



Samantha Molinere



All Pietrucha

#### givin bac

"National Honor Society is a blast because we give back to the community so it makes me feel good," said junior Sara Winiecki as she listens to the upcoming events they plan to do.

#### takin it ^

Talking at the Student Council meeting, junior Kara Buchholz and senior Michelle Plucinski chat about important issues. "We were discussing the lock-in that was in two weeks. We also were talking about the charity projects we were going to do in the upcoming weeks," said Buchholz.





Where r u?

-Madeline Goodman, 11



Ok have fun lol.

-Michael Beck, 12



#### n a vote

At the senior class council meeting they were voting on what would be the senior class motto. "We were happy with the outcome of the vote," said senior Ali Kitner. Along with picking the class motto, the senior class council is in charge of planning graduation.

## CLUB MTG N LGI

### CLUB// MEETING// IN // LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION ROOM

People join clubs for any number of reasons. They could join because they enjoy what the club does or they could want to meet new people. Whatever the reason for becoming part of a club, here at Griffith there is 15 plus clubs to join (... OMG). With so many clubs available at Griffith there is bound to be a club that anyone could fit into. Before a person picks a club it is important to know the duties of that club. These club duties could span from doing things for the community or the student body (BTW...). Some of the clubs at school are Student Council, FCCLA, SADD, Booster Club, National Honor Society and many more. To get into these clubs is not that hard in most cases. For most clubs a person needs to fill out some paper work, have the grades, and they must be generally a good student. For some clubs though, a person has to be invited to join the club. There are only a few like that here at Griffith. National Honor Society is one of those clubs, and the student has to have the grades, have extra curricular actives, and teacher recommendations. Honor Society is a club that meets in the mornings. Once a person is in a club, the club has meetings a person must attend. Some clubs meet in the morning, while others meet after school. (FY...) Student Council is a club that meets in the afternoon. Whenever the club has its meetings it is important as a member attend the meetings. At the meetings the members will discuss a variety of things. Some people have found more than one club they fit in with. "I am in DECA and Class Council. I like DECA because I get to learn all about business, and I like Class Council because I get to know my fellow classmates more," explained junior Dan Rodriguez. No matter what club a person joins it is a good idea to join one. A club introduces people to new people and lets a person help out others.

Anne Hodges

## Student Council



**Front row:** Kara Buchholz, Daniel Rodriguez, Alison Kitner, Michelle Plucinski, Cory Jung **Second row:** Jillian Dixon, Kyrah Eatman, Ellison Cullen, Kylee Ulm, Stacie Hensen, Greg Hotchkiss **Third row:** Samantha Marker, Shi Fassoth, Courtney Hargis, Kristi Buxton, Mia Campbell, Emily Witwiot, Stephenie Brandon, Josh Kusalus **Fourth row:** Presley Conch, Ed Fitzgerald, Chris Melton

## Student Council



**Front row:** Kara Buchholz, Daniel Rodriguez, Alison Kitner, Michelle Plucinski, Cory Jung **Second row:** Michelle Velez, Sara Winnick, Rachel Cooper, Azsha Grant, Erica Kudby, Kristen Yost, Carissa Quintero **Third row:** Jake Long, Nicholas Bobowski, Zack Duvnjak, Morgan Momcilovich, Ali Pietrucha, Frances Pietrucha **Fourth row:** Sean Perez, Tod Basham, Barry Baltrusis

## S.A.D.D.



**Front row:** Jessica Flukka, Sergeant Starcevich **Second row:** Brittany Bechtold, Mia Campbell, Katie Biancardi, Mohammad Issa, Megan Gale, Jenessa Selinas **Third row:** Destiny Cox, Sean Perez, Isaiah Booker



Frances Pietrucha

### **on the H hallway**

The December 5th's lock-in was the most popular StuCo event. "Silent football was probably the best game to play because you couldn't laugh," said junior Carissa Quintero. Other games at the lock-in include red rover, hide-and-seek, and tag.

### **goofin' off**

After losing a game of silent football, junior Barry Baltrusis's punishment was to trade clothes with senior Annie Higginbotham. Baltrusis didn't think it was much of a punishment. "My favorite thing at the lock in was wearing Annie's clothes because they were pretty comfy," said Baltrusis.





Sarah Wenzel 11 Susan Guistolisi 9

# StuCo (Student Council)

**S**tudent Council is one of the most popular clubs. There are 41 members total, about ten from each grade. Student Council has a meeting about two times a month. However, there are a lot more meetings around Homecoming time. The meetings are usually in the LGI [Large Group Instruction] room.

The Student Council sponsor is Rachel Miller, English. She has been the sponsor for three years. "I became the sponsor because I wanted to have a group that would make changes to GH5 and be productive," said Miller.

There are five officers. A president, vice president, historian, secretary, treasurer. At the end of the school year, the Student Council votes for new officers. The president is senior Alison Kitner. The president runs meetings. This is her fourth year on student council. "My favorite part of being president is spending time with the council. The group of kids is really nice," said Kitner. "I like laying down the iron fist."

The vice president is senior Cory Jung. Her responsibilities include helping the president and Mrs. Miller. "I like being the VP [vice president] because I feel like I'm making a difference and helping the school," said Jung. "My favorite activity is Homecoming because the whole council comes together and when it's all done, it's a big accomplishment."

The historian is junior Kara Buchholz. The responsibilities of the historian are to take pictures and help run the meetings. "All of the officers share the responsibilities equally," said Buchholz. "The best part of being historian is getting really close to the council and officers. Also, Mrs. Miller is pretty awesome."

The secretary is senior Michelle Plucinski. "I wanted to be an officer to make change and help plan the activities for the whole school," said Plucinski. The responsibilities of the secretary are keeping everything organized for the council.

The treasurer is junior Daniel Rodriguez. "I love just being part of the officers," said Rodriguez. As the treasurer his responsibilities include counting the money, and keeping track of the money. "We [the officers] usually take all the responsibilities together, and we all work together," said Rodriguez.



Ani Pietruska

**b4 the gift exchange**

At the lock-in there were many exciting things to do, such as the gift exchange. "My favorite part was seeing who got the edible thong," said senior Zack Duvnjak.

**dring a meeting**

Student Council spends many meetings discussing plans and events. "At the meetings we usually talk about the upcoming events," said freshman Sarah Guistolisi.



Ani Pietruska

**"My favorite part of StuCo is..."**

"Getting to see my friends at the lock-in."  
-Josh Kisfalusi, 10



"The activities, like setting up for Homecoming."  
-Shi Fassoth, 9

BEND





photo provided

**^ in the air**

Lifted high in the air is freshman Renee Franker at one of her Dance Force performances. "Practices are hard, but it pays off when it comes to competition," said Franker.

**n the arena**

Strutting her riding skills in a horse competition is junior Brooke Blackard. "I practice six days a week and they aren't hard. I really like riding," said Blackard.

**standing tall**

Cartwheels, back-flips, and handstands are what these girls specialize in at T-N-T tumbling. "Competitions are really busy, but I like it because they're exciting to compete in," said sophomore Sarah Gistolski.



photo provided



photo provided



photo provided

**g@me tim3**

Fighting his opponent for the puck, senior Brandon Clark, a Crown Point team member, pushes him out of the way. "The best part of hockey is getting to hit people into the glass," said Clark.

**just k33p swimming, swimming**

At a Ball State Swimming Camp during summer, senior Frances Pietrucha watches for the riddles of the day. "I really liked the camp and had a lot of fun. I learned a lot," said Pietrucha.

**"Region Rage for Basketball."**

-Lauren Hansen, 11



**"Indoor soccer at Soccerville."**

-Matt Plawecki, 11



**"The Dunes League for Volleyball."**

-Lindsay Sopetti, 10

Message

MENU

Contacts



# idk th3y did tht

[I didn't know they did that]

Imagine going to school for seven hours and learning something new in every class. Now you get out of school and you have to do your homework before practice and finish up that project you were given two weeks ago. On top of all this, you want to hang out with your friends or boyfriend/girlfriend, go to bed before twelve o'clock, and get that sleep you've been lacking all week. OMG, it all sounds too crazy to deal with.

Many high school students have busy schedules and many of them are in outside clubs which takes up more of their time. Some outside clubs include: M2 for dance, Soccerville soccer, Duneland volleyball, or any type of AAU basketball team.

Every Wednesday, the Pantherette team travels thirty minutes to St. John for a two hour practice at M2 Dance Center

"My schedule is always busy during the week. I go to school, M2 for Pantherettes, and then go home and do my homework. I'm exhausted by the end of the day and I just can't wait to go to bed," said Junior Angelina Ojeda.

Being in outside clubs aren't just stressful, they keep you out of trouble and in shape. A lot of students like being a part of something outside of the school.

"I really like being in something outside of the school because I get to play [soccer] with friends that don't go to my school, and meet new people," said Junior Nick Bobowski.

Being in clubs are a great way to meet new people. These clubs are made up of students from different schools all over the area. Multiple clubs have the benefit of traveling. Students here at GHS have traveled places as far as Wisconsin Dells and Las Vegas.

Senior Kate Rone said, "I like the fact I get to travel to warmer climates so I can function better. I really like to travel the country."

So whether you play basketball, soccer, or even dancing, being in clubs that aren't sponsored by the school is still a great way to spend your time, even if it does leave you exhausted.



Photo provided



D.E.C.A.



Varsity Club

**Front row:** Chrissy Lease, Anne Scheffel, Kyree Ulm, Jeff Trisch, Matt Mercer, Angelina Ojeda, Ashley Darragh, Kate Mitchell, Priscilla Sepulveda, Stephane Hobbs, Catherine Jones, Kara Miller, Kyra Seiffenig, Caidin Hayes **Second Row:** Courtney Hayes, Kelly Jones, Ma Rezz, Hilary Bacono, Jade Harris, Michelle Puente, Kara Buzcholz, Cesaria Zourou, Shawn Sokos, Collin Steige, Josh Krafala, Lauren Hansen, Alex Monroe, Kara Lesniawski, Megan Gale, Code Olar, Natalie Drach **Third Row:** Russ Reddie, Na Vista Plummer, Rachel Cooper, Sharilyn Bae, Hannah Heid, Sam Marier, Jerry Sharpe, Alyssa Van Horsen, Sydney Rea, Samara Holmes, Brooke Trueblood, Kristina Vrabel, Priya Lorch, Kellie Bubela, Amanda Strobl, Lee Boronovich, Jake Anderson, Dina Puchko, Jordan Reiter, Taylor Johnson, Sami Clark, Tony McDaniel, Kira Brinkley, Shelly Hoy, Brittany Medley, Shannon Crammer, Caren McCabe, Trinity Morris, Rebecca Hays, Sara Winred, Trevor Baranow, Erin Kulyba, Meggie Bubus, Stephane Negrete, Granda Turner **Fifth Row:** Corry Broeckx, Karlin Hermon, Marit Mecznikowski, Michael Barkow, Christy Obermeier, Ashlee Davis, Jessica Brackney, Courtney Koelsch, Chive Bartley, Courtney Heuser, Bailey Currie, Nic Goydos, Wile Hernandez, Amanda Zaborowski, Steven Keechow, Matt Beck **Sixth Row:** Brian Orazcochukwu, Catelin Bowness, Jeremy Dalton, Michael Beck, Ammar Johnson, Anna Higginbotham, Kristen Yoss, Al Petrucci, Britney Caprioli, Justin Gasper, Carly Dunn, Morgan Morozewich, Abby Metzsch, Frances Petrucci, Lindsay Brandon, Stephane Nowicki, Johnny Kanzler, Art Gancia **Seventh Row:** Melany Gonzales, Miles Zurawski, Zack Duvnak, John Phillips, Joe Nunez, Brenton Strauch, Keith Michel, Jorge Castillo, Jamie Hernandez, Jeff Melton, Jimmy Birch, Nick Bobowski, Jason Short, Jake Long, Ryen Voges, Zach Butkus **Eighth Row:** Omari Quaranta, Kyle Terpstra, Kevin Konopaske, Mike Tivoli, Barry Betrus, Nici Bancardi, Mark Bourne, Danny Torck, Jeff Uichola, Tod Besham, Nick Trausch, Garrett White, Kyle Lutzen, Peter Sepulveda, Brian Brimley, Ryan Galher, Sam Carter

Chorale



**Front row:** Catherine Kus, Kate Miller, Michelle Mojica, Kellie Bubela, Michelle Plucinski, Aimee Johnson, Cory Jung, Kate Lesniawski **Second Row:** Amanda Strobl, Gina Gilge, Alison Kitzner, Michael Trinch, Lindsay Brandon, Jessica Knight, Kristen Yost **Third Row:** Michael Beck, Jaime Hernandez, Michael Moses, Larry Matovina, Brandon Rukas, Carlos Sotres, Justin Gasper, Kevin Konopaske **Fourth Row:** Jeff Melton, Greg Joyce, Aaron Lannin, Kyle Lutzen, Trevor Janke

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## Choralettes



**Front row:** Sarah Clark, Elizabeth Booker, Kelsey Taylor; **Second row:** Jordanne Banas, Aisha Darrough, Rachel Solar; **Third row:** Tiffany Burbridge, Holley Glascoff, Toni Louviere, Stacie Hansen; **Taylor Steffan, Courtney Hargis, Sarah Gustafson;** **Fourth row:** Mallory Baccino, Melissa Miller, Amanda Bakko, Sydney Segovia, Shi Fassoth, Janni Rivera, Megan Lesniowski, Katie Lastagarkov; **Fifth row:** Katelyn Roberts, Renee Franker, Britzany Anderson, Kesley Bonewitz, Shanazha Scheerenga, Vicki Solivais, Lesley Pietsch

## Choralettes



**Front row:** Alyss Metsch, Chloe Oliver, Ellison Cullen, Ashley Noojin, Kyleh Estman, Chance's Walker, Marris Minalick; **Second row:** Nicole Witczek, Elizabeth Kras, Kathy Villellepando, Hope Ryan, Michelle Lesniawski, Andee Gonzalez, Shae Siokos, Melinda Burk, Celi Lemus; **Third row:** Stephanie Brander, Hanna Vrablek, Emily Trueblood, Jennifer Lanfear, Alice Duhon, Alyssa Carter, Ashley Brown, Rachel Garastik; **Fourth row:** Brooke Brinkley, Olivia Gates, Jordan Zemot, Julie Writt, Amelia Morales

## Choralaires



**Front row:** Greg Rothchild, Quincy Moore, Miguel Valverra, Garrett Lick, Josh Ashenbaugh; **Second row:** Joel Kepchar, Raleigh Hinke, Shaw Gellina, Ben Domanski, Luke Glass, Justin Turner; **Third row:** George Walker, Donald Hoover, Riley Henderson, Nick Kudby, Austin Foster; **Tyler Barron, Joey Vaclavik; Fourth row:** Nick Stassen, Troy Yarnelle, Jimmy Gaydos, Jeremy Camp, Cole Felde, Steven Malone; **Fifth row:** John Morakis, Robbie Megquier, Maciek Szczepkowski, Robbie Szabo, Ted Fitzgerald

## What was your fav choir memory?



"When everyone jokes around in class and when Mr. C. tells us stories." -Tyler Yost, 9



"Going to Six Flags to ride the Superman with Amy Belcher!" -Melissa Thrall, 10



"Our New York trip last year when we saw Broadway musicals." -Jessica Knight, 12



"Going to Six Flags and riding Batman." -Quin Barwick, 11

BEND



Caroline Herrara

### rdy 2 sing

First hour freshmen boys choir sang "Crocodile Rock". "In choir, we always get to screw around. Mondays are the worst though, we usually sing the songs," said freshman Cole Felde.

### w/ a helping hand

The Pancake Breakfast started at 8:00 in the morning on February 21. All of chorale had to be there to help out. "I poured orange juice the whole time. It doesn't get any more exciting than that," said senior Aaron Lannin.



Caroline Herrara

### @ the pancake breakfast

Chorale held a pancake breakfast to raise money for their Bahamas trip. "We're going on a Bahamas cruise to sing for competition," said senior Jaime Hernandez.



Caroline Herrera



Caroline Herrera

Photo by Elizabeth Bernardo



Caroline Herrera

## Singin' 2 the right tune

### (Singing to the right tune)

One of Griffith's many electives is choir. Everyone knows that you just sing, right? Well, that's not the only thing to do. Choir also helps students who want to become well-rounded musically. The classes learn some music theory, such as reading music, key signatures, and knowing intervals, just the basics of music. On occasion, Eddie Covarrubias, choir director, lets everyone watch a musical, or a movie involving music.

Out of all the electives, choir may be one of the courses with the most participants. Some students may take it because they want their fine arts credit and choir just seems to be an easy way to get it, while others may just choose it because they like to sing. Then, there are students who take it just because they think it's a blow-off class, or because they wanted at least one class with their friends. Whatever the reason for choosing the class, it's obvious that the students are oozing with talent.

"I took choir because I like music and stuff, and singing is my passion....other than guitar of course," said sophomore Brian Beaupain.

Also, some students choose to join choir because they hope to be able to join chorale. Every year, chorale takes a trip. This year they went on a cruise in the Bahamas March 5-9. They sang for the ship's entertainment. Some other activities the boat had were a rock wall, and a swimming pool, and of course the students enjoyed the warm weather.

However, even if you're not in chorale, and you don't just want to sing in concert choir, you can compete in ISSMA.

"I do ISSMA every year, and it gives me a chance to sing and show people what I'm worth," said junior Trisha Keown.

Choir is an appealing elective to interested students that teaches them about music.

"Choir is entertaining and interesting because you sing songs that you wouldn't even think about listening to. Then you end up liking them," said sophomore Brooke Hobbs.

### Singin' out b4 class

The sophomore choir class gets time before class to chat. "I love singing the music though. The worst part is just having to learn key signatures," said sophomore Alexis Morikis.



photo provided

### drm brk-ply it Out & nail3 it!

"The best part this year was when the entire drumline went to see *The Dark Knight*," said junior Kim Russell. Russell played lead snare this year, but will not be returning next year to play.

### dOrkin it ^ on the way 2 the park

"Being with my friends, having a good time, and acting crazy are the best times because I can just be myself," said freshman Kalle Lastagarkov. Lastagarkov plays the flute in band and had an awesome time in Pennsylvania.



Raquel Mazur



Raquel Mazur

### take rOll call & gOin' gOin', gOne!

With roster in hand, junior Jane Hurdish was in charge of taking attendance. "People weren't listening and didn't understand their own name being called. It was annoying," said Hurdish.



Raquel Mazur



Raquel Mazur

## EV TX What's in a band locker?

### The anatomy of senior Carly Dunn's band locker



a bari saxophone and case, a tenor saxophone and case, marching music and flip folder, marching charts, concert folder with music, concert method book, and Drillmaster marching shoes.

Message

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### doe\$ thi\$ look infected 2 u?

Coming back into the station after a ride on the Sidewinder, junior Eric Sanders and band director Jason Pearman laugh about their thrilling ride. "Mr. Pearman was asking me if his ear was bleeding because of the rough stop," said Sanders.

### impr3ss th3m w. ur mac3 rutin3

One of the few people that did a mace routine, senior and drum major Mike Beck impresses the judges. "I'm going to miss all the good times, like all the band field trips and all the crazy moments only band kids can have," said Beck. Beck loved the ability to be in a leadership position.



## mustn't mi\$\$ my sh0w, imma di3hard

Attempting to get a decent signal on her two inch portable T.V., senior Melissa Pillipow shouts when she gets *Grey's Anatomy*. "I was able to watch the show for about an hour, but then the screen went white, and I shed a tear," said Pillipow.

## per4mance @ Penn.-eat cocoa

Taking a bow before exiting the stage, most members reflect on their performance. "The best song was the slow one, *Appalachian Morning*, because it's pretty, intense, and difficult," said sophomore Megan McVicker.



Photo by Raquel Mazur

Lenny Walentek, Drum Instructor

## Fire ^ the K-dence!

(Fire up the cadence!)

**R**eiless hours, scorching heat, back pain, arm pain, buckets of sweat, tears, blood, and a feeling of accomplishment when it's all over would describe a normal band year for Griffith. Just like last year, the band tallied up over 72 hours at band camp. Band camp lasted two weeks again, but one day had to be canceled because of the tornado that had ripped through the north side of Griffith.

Sophomore Nicole Hamill, whose house was hit in the tornado, ended up missing three days of band camp to help her family clean up. "I do not think that Mr. Pearman cared that I missed. I did not miss too much."

Along with the tornado, the band was far from being short of setbacks. Another problem involved the football field being too flooded to march on.

Despite the inconveniences, the band still managed to log in 121 hours through June, Fourth of July parade, and band camp.

At this year's South Bend ISSMA competition, the band and color guard managed to grab a solid gold rating for the second year running. "It has been a great four years for our band to develop into what we are now," said senior Caroline Herrera. "Our band has progressed greatly from years before, and I will miss it terribly."

The 2009 band trip was to Hershey, Pennsylvania where the band competed with concert band music. The music selections were *Appalachian Morning* by Robert Sheldon and *Billboard March* by Andrew Balent. "The music I chose suits our group, personality, and instrumentation as well," said Jason Pearman, band director.

At the competition in Pennsylvania, the band took second place with a rating of excellence out of four bands in the 2A classification. Senior Michelle Plucinski played a clarinet solo in *Appalachian Morning*. "My solo was the best performance I've done. We also did an amazing job as an ensemble, we did the best we could."

The trip was not all work and no play. Before performing, the band stopped at the Antique Automotive Club Museum and Chocolate World, located right next to Hershey Park. After their performance, they went back to the hotel for a pizza party, swam, and relaxed. Hershey Park was all day Saturday.



Front row: Micheal Beck **Second row:** Melissa Moisant, Kim Russell, Rachel Solar, Cassie Christenson, Megan McVicker, Michelle Velez, Brianna Cobb **Third row:** Imani Rosa, Kelle Lastagarkov, Cory Jung, Alyssa Nievadomski, Michelle Plusinski, Nicole Hamill, Clarisse Hardy **Fourth row:** Kylee Loudenberg, Caroline Herrera, Melissa Pillipow, Nathan Bailey, Eric Sanders, Raquel Mazur, Alex Mendoza, Kate Cahill **Fifth row:** Laura Hurdish, Sarah Hurdish, Jane Hurdish, Carly Dunn, Micheal Kent



Front row: Courtney Koleski, Tyler Vestal, Taylor Surowiec, Joe Zuniga, Keith Lidster, Amy Belcher **Second row:** Casey McDaniell, Michelle Sopetti, Brittny Sanders, Matt Grahn, Kyle Jursic, Art Garcia, Lindsey Sopetti **Third row:** Jeff Melton, Chris Melton, David Baldazo, Orlando Turner, Brian Baupain, Dontrell Kelly, Chris Plucinski, Zack Dunphy **Fourth row:** Melissa Thrall, Matt Fitz, Calvin Bonewits, Daniel Huzzie, Jonathan Acevedo, Jake Writt, Ryan Gelher



Front row: Amy Zellers, Desirree Cadiz, Kyra Scheeringa, Jordan Gratos, Brianna Irwin, Rebecca Baseline **Second row:** Kelly Jones, Rachel Mierzwa, Kylee Ulm, Chrissy Colgrave, Amanda Boyer, Jasmine Mata, Gabriella Joyner **Third row:** Alexis Morikis, Cassie Shanks, Lindsay Pierce, Jeff Tinich, Courtney Massa, Brooke Hobbs, Jordan Rex, Jessica Domanski **Fourth row:** Cody Madgin, Megan Gale, Kyle McCarley, Clarence Young, Fernanda Bugan

Band

Concert Choir

Concert Choir

## Color Guard



Front row: Caroline Herrera Second row: Brianna Connor, Melissa Molsant, Alyssa Lanting Third row: Classsia Hardy, Megan Troska, Jasmin Freeman, Imani Ross, Kimberly Lindsay say

### @ Jackson Field n S b3nd

Nailing their charts and performing their solo routine, the guard smiles big for the judges Senior Caroline Herrera, who is the guard captain, comments on the season, "I am very proud of what we accomplished this year because we got gold at ISSMA All the hard work paid off."



Anne Maggibotham

### per4ming @ the 1/2 time show

At a very special Halloween half-time show, sophomore Imani Ross has fun with her costume for the guard. "I went as a Jabbawockeez from *America's Best Dance Crew*," laughed Ross. "One Pantherette looked scared at first when I walked onto the track."



Caroline Herrera

## Concert Choir II



Front row: Will Dennison, Savannah Mendoza, Alyssa Lanting, Kellie Blask, Michelle Velez, Abby Zerndt, Guin Barwick Second row: Rachel Dennison, Alicia Begeke, Alexa Mata, Willy Hernandez, Michaela Ezell, Valarie Scholtz, Kate Mitchell Third row: Stephanie Shively, Nicholas Gaydos, Kier Brinkley, Joey Ramos, Samuel Carter, Stephanie Negrete, Rebecca Franker, Ashley Rodgers Fourth row: Jacob Long, Jose Cisneros, Jimmy Burch, Sean Perez, Jessica Burbridge, Steven Kepchar, Matthew Beck

## Concert Choir I



Front row: Natalie Drach, Amber Cometz, Brenda Banks, Christine Leslie, Madeline Goodman, Trisha Keown Second row: Kimberlee Swender, Vivian Perez, Azsha Grant, Codie Otar, Erica Edwards, Jasmin Freeman, Melissa Stadrik Third row: Kylene Loudenber, Megan Anderson, Joshua Holbrook, Nicholas Gallina, Nelson Oliver, Kristen Guley, Kristen Graan, Kara Kessy Fourth row: Nicholas Sharp, Brenton Strauch, Sean Malone, Matthew Plawecki, Kyle Carter, Nicholas Bobowski, Eric Brumley

### @ sum1's house 4 team bonding

Quenching her thirst, junior Melissa Molsant bonds with the guard at junior Kim Lindsay's house. "That day was the best because we made our shirts for the season while eating pizza and listening to music," said Molsant. "It was really eventful."





Raquel Mazur



Raquel Mazur

**putting make^ on 4 ISSMA in S.B.**  
Accomplishing the tedious task on a bumpy bus, junior Kimberly Lindsay makes junior Jasmin Freeman beautiful for the performance. "The huge glitter design was unusual," said Lindsay. "It was difficult to get off, too. I had glitter for days."

#### prcting 4 a band final 4

Because juniors Jasmin Freeman, Megan Troska, and Kimberly Lindsay do not play instruments, they are required to make up a flag routine to make up points for band class. "It took about a week to do," stated Freeman. "I helped make about half of it."



Photo by Raquel Mazur

Page by Raquel Mazur



Aimee Fredericks Color Guard Director

# Bhere @ 4

[Be here at four!]

The color guard has returned for their second year to accompany the band at half-time shows and the ISSMA marching competition! This year, the guard was made up of nine spunky girls who love to entertain crowds and who appreciate the art of music and dance combined. Aimee Fredericks returned this year to direct and choreograph the show. Fredericks picked out guard's costumes and decided on how the girls' makeup would be done. The band director, Jason Pearman, picked out this year's flags.

In addition to clocking in the long band camp hours with the band for two weeks of their summer vacation, the guard also had to be at the school learning the new routines for the Fourth of July parade and the half-time shows. They had to learn marching basics in the scalding heat of the summer and see how the music and routines would fit together.

Before football games, the guard had to be at the school by four o'clock to get their makeup on, do their hair, get dressed, stretch, warm up, and practice their routines before show time. "It took at least two hours to do everything," said junior Brianna Cannon. "It was stressful because people were everywhere and we had to find everybody to get everything done."

Being in the color guard isn't all hard work though. In their downtime, the girls would bond and become just like family. "We all made friendship bracelets for each other during our downtime in and out of band," said junior Melissa Moisant.

For some guard members, the worst part of being in the guard is the long band camp hours. "The most stressful part of it [being in the guard] is band camp," said junior Kimberly Lindsay. "It runs from eight a.m. to five p.m. for two weeks! But I definitely plan on doing it next year. I love my flag girls."

The guard helped contribute to the gold rating received at ISSMA on the half-time show.

## Wat did u 'lol' @ most this yr?

[What did you laugh out loud at most this year?]



"Telling the socially awkward jokes, Kim Lindsay's "Let's do this!", and making fun of Clarissa Hardy because she was the only freshman! [Lol!]- Alyssa Lanting, 10

BEND





"Yearbook is much more laid-back, but still challenging. Newspaper can be really hectic and stressful, but I think I'm getting a lot of experience out of both of them."

-Robin Sophiea, 12



"Being on [The Edge] staff has been an interesting adventure. Always having T-Mac (Britney Cabral), Morgan (Momicovich), and Sammi (Holmes) and most of all, USA (Rata) to help me figure out what I was doing and help me improve my pages."

-Erica Edwards, 11



"I would have to say newspaper is my favorite class because we have so many good times and I love being a writer for the *Panther Press*."

-Carissa Quintero, 11

#### scre a gol?

Asking freshman Taylor Steffan a puzzling question about the girls' soccer team, junior Jacob Long said, "Yearbook's a great class because you get to meet new people through interviewing."

#### yummy yummy :)

Enjoying their time at the Reflector Christmas party, seniors Annie Higginbotham and Morgan Momicovich eat desserts. "I was eating a yummy Rice Krispy treat," Momicovich said.



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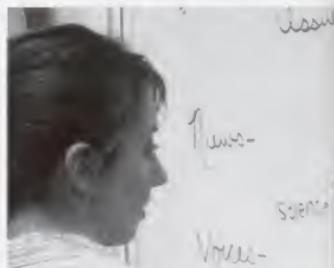
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(hurry and finish)



Page by Hannah Hack

Photo by Hannah Hack



**R**ushing to make deadlines, interviewing peers, and snapping photos are what the publications classes, including the *Panther Press*, *Reflector*, and *The Edge*, do best. If the deadline is two weeks for the *Panther Press*, or two months for *The Edge* or *Reflector*, the students that make up these groups must make the deadline, which can be the toughest part. *Reflector* staff has to make their deadlines, as well as photo deadlines in about two months, and sometimes less. "Making the deadlines is very stressful, because I wait until the last minute to get everything done," said sophomore Samantha McInerney of the *Reflector*. Another member on the *Reflector* staff, senior Caroline Herrera, photographer said, "I really enjoy taking pictures of other people for the spreads because I really like photography."

For *Panther Press* staff members, their deadline is one week after they get their story. The *Panther Press* comes hot off the press every two weeks, with eight pages in all, including a sports page, pros and cons, an editorial, as well as a feature story which varies. Sophomore Nicolette Nunez said, "My favorite article I wrote was the editorial because a lot of people started talking about it, and editorials are supposed to spark controversy." The *Panther Press* staff has the shortest deadline of all of the publication classes.

*The Edge*, which is the GHS magazine, comes off of the press quarterly. Each staff member gets half of a quarter to finish two pages of the magazine. There are only girls on the staff, which means each girl has a little bit more work to do than the staff of the *Reflector* or the *Panther Press*. *The Edge* magazine has a fashion page, a game page, an embarrassing stories page, as well as a horoscope page, and a few others.

Each publication member must manage their time well in order to complete their assignments. The photographers must have their photos taken, the designers must have their spreads done for the reporters to begin work on, and all must have their research done, as well as interviews. "I don't like asking the teachers to take the students out of class, because they scare me because sometimes, they don't let the students we need to interview out," sophomore Elizabeth Biancardi said of the *Reflector*.

## Wooooooooo!

"My secret Santa was the best this year, she got me everything I ever dreamed of," junior Reflector member Klara Graglio said excitedly. The Reflector staff had a Christmas party before break began.



All Pietrucha



All Pietrucha

## Thin' a brk

While taking a break on the hard work of the magazine, senior Edge member Sammi Holmes said, "When we are done with our pages, we like to play games on the computers."

All Pietrucha

## Iovin the class

Brainstorming for an edition of the Panther Press, Senior co-editor Elizabeth Thrall said, "I just love newspaper. It is my passion and I give it my all every issue."



Front row: Frances Pietrucha, Kaitlyn Herron, Nicole Hamm, Lisa Reifa, Robin Sophiea, Kristina Colard. Second row: Elizabeth Biencardi, Annie Higginbotham, Christine Colgrove, Caroline Herrera, Christine Obermeyer, Hannah Hack, Kaitlyn Sudec, Jillian Dixon. Third row: Raquel Mazur, Ali Pietrucha, Morgan Momicilovich, Jacob Long, Amanda Zaborowski.



Front row: Robin Sophiea, Ashley Darrough, Beth Thrall, Lawrence Matovina, Sera Winecki. Second row: Nicollete Nunez, Lindsey Brandner, Zachary Kisfalusi, Shelby Higgins, Carissa Quintero, Chansisse Bogan. Third row: Jared Tibbs, Jeremy Starks, Justin Phillips.



Front row: Erica Edwards, Samantha Holmes, Britney Gabreles, Morgan Momicilovich.

## Thespians



Front Row: Nicole Poole, Catherine Kus, Chrissy Colgrove, Alexis Mata, Kimberlee Swender, Trisha Keown, Chrissy Leslie  
Second Row: Michelle Plucinski, Elizabeth Thrall, Michelle Sopetti, Jake Long, Larry Matovina, Caroline Herrera  
Third Row: Jimmy Burch, Jeremy Starks, Jeff Melton

## GLS



Front Row: Kyle Lidster, Daniella Alvarez, Larry Matovina  
Second Row: Nicole Poole, Ashleigh Gates, Sarah Gates



Dylan Mouliseng

## Quill and Scroll



Front row: Larry Matovina, Elizabeth Thrall Second Row: Frances Pietrucha, Chrissy Obermeyer, Brittany Cabrales, Robin Sophiae



Kara Gragic

### wut r muh linez?

Rehearsing before they hit the stage for dress rehearsal, senior Jeff Melton and freshman Jonathon Uchman try to get the lines right. "Being the lead, the flow kind of depends on whether or not you know your lines. It was possible, but extremely hard to learn them all, but the practices were hilarious!" exclaimed Melton.

### mandatory prac @ 3!

Imagine being the director of your own play! Senior Larry Matovina stepped up to the challenge. "It's very stressful. You're in charge of setting dates for practice, and you have to be flexible with your own cast. It's hardest giving your peers constructive criticism, and to say what they're doing wrong. You have to help them meet your expectations."

### r u all shook ^?

Dancing with Natalie, played by junior, Trisha Keown, Chad, played by senior, Michael Beck, finds love where he least expects it, when he rides into town on his motorbike. "Chad was an exciting character to portray. I hope to leave behind a legacy for others to follow," stated Beck.

### takin the stage 1 last time.

The cast of *All Shook Up* worked over the course of three months to put on the show. "I had so much on my plate already, it was a lot of hard work, but I know that the time spent really paid off," explained junior James Burch.



Dylan Hauseberg

## A Word From The Director!



"Drama is a fun way to express oneself. It was a great year. I loved working with the drama kids. This year, the casts had a lot of heart. They were a really great group." - Lisa Megquier, English

BEND



# im all sh00k ^! ( I'm All Shook Up)

Play by Kara Granda



Junior James Burch

**A**s auditions neared, the kids at Griffith High School prepared themselves to show the director, Lisa Megquier, English, what they're made of. "As soon as we got the lines, I tried to memorize them as quickly as possible so I could have more time to practice with them to develop how I wanted to say and present certain lines," explained sophomore Jeremy Starks. "I enjoyed both of my parts (prison ward and bus driver), but I enjoyed portraying the bus driver much more because, even though it was a small part, I got to leave an impression on the crowd."

Auditions were held on September 15, 2008, from 7 to 9 p.m., and September 17, 2008, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the auditorium. It was here where kids "shook", and squeaked with nervousness and excitement. At auditions, you are required to read lines from the script of the chosen play as well as singing songs from that play.

When auditions are over and everyone gets the results, things get hectic. For *All Shook Up*, some kids would be at the school on and off for hours after school working on dances, songs, or just blocking and lines. At the end, the hours the kids put in are 100% worth it.

The thespians performed *All Shook Up* at the Northwest Indiana Thespian regionals, held at Clay High School in South Bend Indiana on January 10th. The thespians participating woke up at a grueling 4 a.m. to be ready and on the bus with complete costumes in tow by 5 a.m. They performed a 50 minute version of the two hour and fifteen minute play. They arrived back at Griffith High School around 5 p.m.

The thespians were invited to perform main stage at Thespian State 2009, held in Indianapolis at the University of Indianapolis, on March 13, 14, and 15, 2009. They were unable to attend and had to decline the offer.

Not only does Griffith have a fall performance, but every spring we have something called Dessert Theatre. This year, Dessert Theatre was a two night performance with not one, not two, but three senior directed plays! The directors of Dessert Theatre 2009 were seniors Elizabeth Thrall, Catherine Kus, and Larry Matovina.

"Everyone worked very hard. Our efforts paid off. All three plays were the best ever directed! Larry always adds a twist. Our hard work did not go unrecognized," exclaimed Catherine Kus, director of *Act Three, Scene Five*.

Jesse Long

# Bowl!n (Bowling)

Basketball, baseball, and football are a few sports that may come to mind when you think of Griffith High School sports, but there is a new club that is quickly gaining popularity and respect. This club is the Griffith High School Bowling Club. The Bowling Club meets every Thursday and they bowl at Plaza Lanes in Highland. The club is not competitive, it is simply a way to have fun after school.

"The best part about Bowling Club is getting to beat my high score next year," said freshman Luke Glass.

The Bowling Club season starts in October and goes to March. The club starts right after school and ends after three games, which is normally around 5:30 p.m. With all of this time together, great memories like bowling a strike without looking, or throwing the ball off the lane and having it hit a pillar in the lanes are bound to happen.

"The funniest moment was when me and [sophomore] Katie Ranck fell when she was trying to bowl," said freshman Elizabeth Kras.

Although this club is all about having fun while bowling, the club gives the members a chance to work on their bowling skills. Between all the laughs and good times, there's always that little nagging sensation that wants to win.

"I sometimes used to try and beat [senior] Danny Keller during the season because we always went at it and we always messed around with each other about who won and lost," said sophomore Steven Gronkiewicz.

The Bowling Club seniors' enthusiasm and encouragement will greatly be missed next year. They changed the way some students played and think about bowling.

"I will really miss the seniors because one of my really good friends is a senior this year," said junior Melissa Stadnik.

The Griffith High School Bowling Club is a stress free and friendly environment that almost anyone would love to be around.



## bOwl 2 succ3ss

"My favorite part of the club is hanging out with my friends," said sophomore Katie Ranck. This was Ranck's first year in bowling club. Here, she approaches the lane during a meeting after school.



photo provided



EV  
TX Wats ur fave memOry frm bOwl!n? ■■■

"My favorite memory from bowling club was when Keith Lidster fell right as he was going to bowl."

-Chris Curnow, 10

"One time me and Danny Keller made a bet on who would have a higher score and I beat him."

-Jose Cisneros, 11

"I have a lot of good memories because Danny Keller made Bowling Club very entertaining."

-Courtney Koleski, 10

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## Bowling Club



photo provided

### strik3 a p0s3

Four year returning senior Danny Keller, has a lot of great memories with bowling club. "My favorite part of the club is being around the people and Mr. Gast," Keller explained.

### b0wlin blund3rs

After throwing his bowling ball, sophomore Keith Lidster tells about his funniest moment in Bowling Club, "The funniest moment was when I fell down the lane while trying to bowl."



Front row: Danny Keller, Jaime Keller, Steven Gronkiewicz Second row: Kristina Plucinski, Amy Zellers, Ashley Ames, Andee Mullins, Katie Ranck, Elizabeth Kras, Jose Cisneros, Luke Glass, Courtney Koleski Third row: Dylan Etheridge, Jake Writt, Chris Curnow, Eric Brumley, Robert Lewis, Daniella Alvarez, Robert Gamez, Melissa Stadnik, Keith Lidster, David Baldazo

## Freshman Class Council



Front row: Sarah Guistolisi, Ellison Cullen Second row: Sarah Clark, Stacie Hansen, Rachel Garastik, Stephanie Brandner, Michelle Lesniawski, Kylah Eatman Third row: Megan Lesniawski, Brooke Brinkley, Amy Russel

## Sophomore Class Council



Front row: Art Garcia, Jillian Dixon, Nicole Poole, Amanda Clark, Charles Roberson Second row: Alyssa Lanting, Kristen Pospsychala, Mia Campbell, Megan Gale, Taylor Reitz, Chrissy Colgrove Third row: Samantha Marker, Jeremy Starks, Josh Kisfalusi

photo provided

## International Club



Front row: Trisha Keown, Megan McVicker, Jackie Lopez, Jillian Dixon, Amber Cornett, Natalie Drach, Sam Aguilar  
Second Row: Maddy Goodman, Rachel Dennis, Rachel Geraski, Codie Oler, Katie Miller, Emily Witwot, Valerie Schiote, Erica Edwards, Sarah Gustafson  
Third Row: Chrissy Colgrove, Cassandra Shanks, Jamie Keller, Jack LaHae, Caroline Herrera, Ashleigh Gates, Katie Cahill, Dan Rodriguez, Lindsay Pierce, Megan Gale, Kylee Ulm  
Fourth Row: Celi Lemus, Jennifer Teasdale, Rebecca Franken, Brooke Trueblood, Amanda Zabocwicki, Brooke Blackard, Prasiley Conich, Sera Winecki, Elizabeth Kras, Alice Duhan  
Fifth Row: Amber Crook, Art Garcia, Jemelia Harris, Jimmy Burch, Jared Tibbs, Steve Greenwood, Kelly Lannin, Justin Gasper

## Did u kno...?

...If every student at GHS donated one dollar we could raise enough money to feed and care for one child in Africa for over two years.



## English Superbowl



Front row: Jill Fitzgerald, Jane Hurdish, Terri Ramos

## Don8in n

## Raisin \$\$

(Donating and Raising Money)

Money is what moves the world. We want to spend it, save it, or even just start making some of it. Here at GHS, many clubs and sports teams use different types of fundraising to make some money so they can spend it on whatever they need, whether it be new uniforms, club t-shirts, or new equipment. But sometimes that money isn't raised just for their spending privileges, some clubs will raise money to donate to charity.

Do you ever find yourself sitting through second hour, just craving some chocolate, only to see a kid on the other side of the room with a big box of candy by his desk? While that student will probably use your craving as an opportunity to sell as much chocolate as possible, those candy bars aren't being sold just to satisfy your case of the munchies. This year the Marching Band carried those big boxes of candy bars from class to class, hoping to raise some money. The Pantherettes also sold chocolates as a way to raise money. "We do a lot of fundraisers, such as Little Girls' Camps and selling t-shirts. We need to raise money for competition," said Junior Natisha Wlodarczyk.

Many other clubs and teams hold fundraisers too. Student Council makes money from Homecoming and the talent show. International Club members sold suckers and wreaths to help pay for their summer trip to Europe.

While we all want to raise money to benefit ourselves, sometimes we need to be a little less selfish and help others out instead, holding drives and fundraisers for those in need. Every year National Honor Society holds a blood drive where students can donate blood and help out the people who need it. This year the cheerleaders sponsored a toy drive, collecting toys to donate to the 5.0.5 Children's Village in Chicago. Student Council made blankets to give to a nursing home.

Fundraisers help us earn money to get what we want and go where we want. Drives and donations help us realized that it isn't always about us. Making money may be what moves the world, but compassion and consideration for others keeps the world stable.

## Fine Arts Superbowl



Front row: Ashleigh Johnson, Michelle Plucienski



### **we <3 candy**

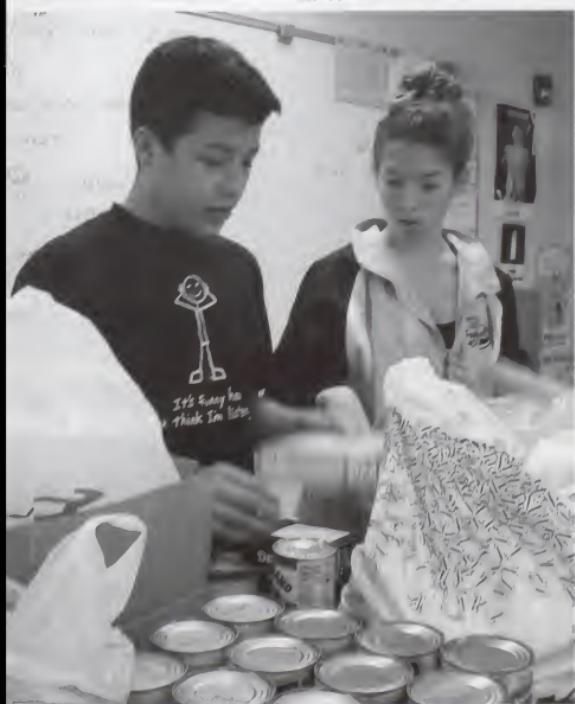
Raising money for her trip to Africa, junior Kristen Gulley sells a KitKat to fellow junior Michael Zaberda. Selling about a box a day, Gulley needs to raise \$3,500 for her trip. "[Junior] Sarah Skertich buys the most, usually three a day. She gives money to other people to buy candy too!"



Lisa Rella



Lisa Rella



Lisa Rella

### **naughty r nic3?**

For a Christmas fundraiser, the GHS cheerleaders sold Santa grams. Sending Santa grams to friends meant they could receive candy canes for being nice, or sacks of coal for being naughty. Here, juniors Ashley Darrough and Michelle Velez help freshmen Alsha Darrough and Ellison Culen assemble the grams.

### **\$ellin sum suckrs**

"Girls definitely buy the most suckers," explained junior Ashleigh Gates, as she sells some to junior Ashley Robinson. Gates was selling suckers as a fundraiser for her trip to Europe this summer.



Lisa Rella

### **FOOD 4 thought**

To increase the number of items donated for the food drive, Student Council offered pizza, chips, and donut parties to the fifth hour classes that gave the most items. Here juniors Daniel Rodriguez and Lindsay Meece count some of the donated goods

### r4cin' in2 the futur3

While participating in a Science Olympiad Competition, freshman Ted Fitzgerald said, "Even though I enjoyed Science Olympiad, I won't be doing it next year."

### acad3mics > SPorts

"Even though I don't compete in sports, I still think that academic competitions are a big part of our school," said sophomore Matt Grahovac, when asked about why he joined academic bowls.



Caroline Herrera



Photo provided

Page by Rachel Gersbach and Amanda Brinken



Sophomores Matt Grahovac and Raymond Alvarez

# Aca Comp (Academic Competitions)

Almost everyone at Griffith High School likes to compete, but while some students like to hit home runs or score touchdowns, others enjoy competing in academic competitions. The academic superbowls subjects are English, math, science, social studies, and fine arts. Science Olympiad, Spell Bowl, and DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) are also considered academic clubs.

The academic bowls have a topic that they focus on each year. This year it is Vikings, what they did in battle, religious customs, and how they fought. All the different schools in Lake County compete to win various medals.

One of the more successful clubs this year was Science Olympiad. The Science Olympiad team competed at regionals at Indiana University Northwest. Placing third, they advanced to state, which was held at IUPUI. Even though the team did not place at state, they reached their goal.

"I enjoyed going and I hope this won't be the last. My favorite challenge was the Junk Yard Challenge, because we had to build and object they gave us in a certain time right then and there," sophomore Josh Kisfalusi said. To prepare for state, Science Olympiad spent many long practices working on their material.

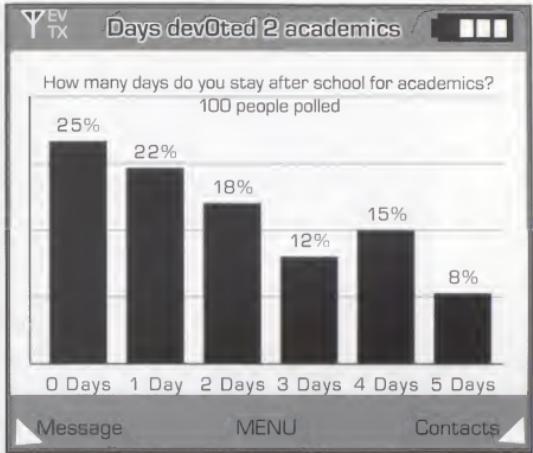
Superbowls may not have to stay after school everyday, but they practice by studying for events. At competition, students take tests or do hands-on activities.

Like any other activity, it can get difficult to include school work in your daily schedule. While participating in math and science superbowls, senior Catherine Kus said, "It was difficult to manage superbowl and school work at times, but I did most of my homework in school. History took up a lot of my time outside school, because I had to do research on my topics." Math Superbowl met only on Mondays and Wednesdays, and most of the practicing took place in meetings.

Even though competing in sports and competing in academic competitions are very different, they do share some lifelong skills like teamwork, responsibility, and dedication. They are an important part of student life.



## Math Superbowl



Front row: Josh Kisfalusi, Kandice Cobb, Catherine Kus  
Second row: Evan Laviolette, Larry Matovina, Christine Chidichimo

## Science Superbowl



Zach Kisfalusi, Michelle Plucinski, Raymond Alvarez, Matthew Grahovac

## Social Studies Superbowl



Front row: Kate Rone, Catherine Kus  
Second row: Josh Kisfalusi, Ted Fitzgerald, Zack Kisfalusi



Photo provided

### daz3d & COnfus3d

"We were acting like we knew what we were doing, but really we had no idea," said junior Jane Hurdish, who wasn't actually in the Fine Arts Club, but was there to help out her friend senior Michelle Plucinski.

### fusing the brain

"My favorite part about DECA was the state competition because there's a dance and casino night. There's also a mall nearby and an elevator that goes through the roof," said sophomore Anna Schell, who joined last year because her brother was president at the time.



Photo provided

## Booster Club



**First row:** Morgan Momciovich, Kylie Eastman, Alysa Mutsch, Elissa Cullen, Alexa Dragon, Amy Russell, Ashe Darrough, Jillian Dixon, Ashley Darrough **Second Row:** Sarah Clark, Kylee Um, Kelly Jones, Sarah Gustafson, Angelina Odeia, Billie Reitz, Natasha Wlodarczyk, Kyra Scheerenga, Brahma Nagel, Michelle Veler **Third Row:** Hilary Bacino, Emily Witbeck, Nicolette Nunez, Trisha Monroe, Taylor Sunowicz, Bailey Curts, Shannon Carpenter, Mia Campbell, Hannah Hack, Katie Mitchell **Fourth Row:** Ma Reitz, Kathryn Heron, Hanne Vrabely, Presley Conch, Frances Petrucci, Kalynn Ruz, Alyssa Van Horssen, Anne Higginbotham, Brooke Brinkley, Christine Obermyer, Mallory Bacon **Fifth Row:** Aimee Johnson, Kristen Yost, Abby Mutsch, Rebecca Franken, Brooke Trueblood, Ali Petrucha, Jessica Bradlaw, Renee Franken; Courtney Koleski, Kate Miller **Sixth Row:** Alicia Begele, Julianne Witzt, Shelby Higgins, Keith Mitchell, Sean Perez, Zack Dunjak, Tina Horton, Kier Brinkley, Crystal Vanwhite

## FCCLA



**First row:** Lisa Blaski, Nicole Witbeck, Emily Witbeck, Rebecca Franken, Stephanie Shively, Kim Swender, Keith Mitchell, Natalie Drach, Jackie Lopez, Emily German **Second Row:** Shannon Schiebel, Savannah Mendoza, Kellie Blaski, Catherine Kus, Christine Colgrove, Robin Sophia, Caitlin Stevens, Jillian Dixon, Lynn Rhodes **Third Row:** Katie Miller, Jordan Rex, Leslie Peach, Katie Biancardi, Amber Crook, Megan Gute, Deborah Leslie, **Fourth Row:** Brooke Blackard, Jacob Anderson, Morgan Momciovich, Jane Hurdish, Michelle Sopetti, Courtney Koleski, Alexis Mata

## Spell Bowl



**First row:** Lakisha Hill, Jesmin Freeman, NaVasia Flemming **Second Row:** Brandi Jones, Jennifer Porter, Matthew Grahovac, Keith Lidsler **Third Row:** Andrew Griggs, David Baldazo, Edward Fitzgerald

## le@rning 1n @ fun w@y

Teaching her students using a model of a castle, Jenna Berzy, history, thinks this helps her students learn. "The Middle Ages are complex with lots of people and events. I thought a visual representation of the people and concepts would make it easier to understand," said Berzy.

## Hangin ^ p0st3rs

Showing support for our football team, junior Shelby Higgins helps hang up posters. "The cheerleaders put in a lot of time making posters before big games, and I was just hanging up one of the posters we made," said Higgins.



Amanda Zdziarski

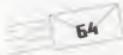
## Locker decoration designs



**BEND**



U





# D3c 1t Out

[Deck it out]  
page by Kaitlyn Herron



JR Ford, Spanish

While there are many art classes here at GHS, sometimes photography and jewelry making are not always enough to keep the creative juices flowing. Sometimes we feel the need to express our creativity, and our amazing talent for cutting out bubble letters, by decorating the hallways and lockers.

At any given season, you can walk down the hall and see numerous lockers decorated for anything from football to cheerleading to drama, and there's even a few lockers decorated for birthdays. Everyone in drama decorates lockers for each other for the weekend they perform the play. For senior Sara Nashkoff's eighteenth birthday this year, her mom came to the school to decorate her locker with happy birthday wishes.

Some students enjoy seeing all these different decorations as they make their way through the halls to their classes, but other students think too often these decorations are overdone. "I think decorating [lockers] is good, but kids take it too far with balloons and confetti," explained senior Keith Mitchell. Many times students stuff confetti and streamers into lockers, only for those little bits of paper to wind up all over the hallways.

Other students see decorations as a way to get teammates excited for a big game, and to keep the fans and players motivated. This year during football season, the cheerleaders made posters for the fieldhouse, so the boys and fans could see them on Friday nights and pump them up for the games. The art club added permanent decorations to the fieldhouse and main gym lobbies this year, painting silhouettes of players in different sports along the walls. During Homecoming, Booster Club decorated the Wiggs Entrance, and even with almost thirty people helping, it took over two hours to cover the entrance in black and gold.

Decorating takes time, effort, and money. In most cases, students head to the nearest dollar store to pick up markers, streamers, paw-print wrapping paper, and posters of all sizes. Junior Shannon Carpenter prefers to shop for decorating supplies at the Dollar Store on 45th. "I can get a lot more things with the money I want to spend."

Students will continue to decorate the hallways and lockers with their crafty posters and locker designs no matter which store they have to go to or what event it's for. "I think the decorations and posters we make give teams confidence to win their game," explains junior Trisha Monroe. No matter what the purpose, it's good to have black and gold covering lockers to distract from all the blue throughout the hallways of GHS.



Amanda Zaborszawski

## Checking Out his sign

Before a big game, senior Mike Giustolisi checks out one of the many posters hung up in the field house hallway. "I was looking at the poster my family made me before a game. It got me pumped up to play a good game," said Giustolisi.

## Celebrating Sen. night

Decorating a teammate's locker, sophomore Kelly Jones hangs up streamers. "I was putting streamers on Hillary Baccino's locker for senior night." A lot of the students who are in sports celebrate senior night by decorating seniors' lockers.



Anne Theognostine



### **spinnin da wheel**

"Mr. Gast was teaching me how to throw," said sophomore Nicole Poole, "I like art club because I get to learn art techniques from someone who really knows what he's doing."

### **need ne ink?**

Some students have been involved for years, others are completely new. "I've been in art club on-and-off for three years" said senior Ashley Ames, with friend senior Andee Mullens.



Caroline Herrera

### **omg! ceramics!**

Senior Jordan Redar is constantly working on his ceramics projects. "I almost always throw on the wheel during art club meetings," Redar said.

### **prntscrnnin**

Art Club helps a lot of students catch up on other projects that they wouldn't be able to work on at home. "I joined art club so I could have more time to work on my art in school," said senior Charrise Bogan.



Caroline Herrera



### **wnt to paint?**

A lot of students choose to help each other with their art projects. "I help my friend with his comics a lot of the time," said junior Amber Cornett, with friend, sophomore Joe Zuniga.



EV TX

## match em'

Match each art club member with their favorite kind of art!

1. painting	a. Amber Cornett
2. ceramics	b. Charrise Bogan
3. printmaking	c. Evan Laviolette
4. photography	d. Ashley Ames
5. drawing	e. Nicole Poole
6. illustrations	f. Jordan Redar
	g. Joe Zuniga

1.A, 2.C, 3.D, 4.E, 5.B, 6.G  
1.A, 2.C, 3.D, 4.E, 5.no answer, 6.B/G

Message MENU Contacts





Penn by Lauren Milton



Evan Laporte

Caroline Herrera

## g3ttin craf-t (getting crafty)

**M**ost Art Club students have one thing in common, at the very least: their love for art. For some, this is as far as their common interests will go. For others, common interests have brought them closer as students, and as friends. From helping another art club member with his comic book project, to printmaking with your best friend, art club is certainly a time to bond, but also a time to work on projects you couldn't finish in school. This is what initially attracts most students to attending an art club meeting.

"I take a lot of art classes, and art club helps me finish projects I couldn't finish in class, and get help on things I might struggle in," said senior Ashley Ames.

Projects range from dark-room photography, to printmaking, to painting and illustration. It's completely up to the students as to what they choose to do in that hour after school every Tuesday.

"I really like 2-D art and illustrations, mostly," said senior Charrise Bogan, "but I work on a lot of other things too."

Some students are dedicated members who attend every meeting Tuesdays afterschool, and some have been on-and-off again, depending on their already packed schedules and the grades they have in their art classes.

"I've only been in art club for a year, but I try to attend every meeting," said sophomore Nicole Poole. "Mr. Gast is a really good teacher and he really knows what he's doing."

A lot of art club students attribute the success of the club to the club's sponsor, Jason Gast. Junior Amber Cornett testifies that her favorite part of art club is the sponsor. "Mr. Gast is awesome. We have a good time."

Although Gast transferred to the middle school art department this year, he still sponsors art club meetings every Tuesday, rain or shine. Other art teachers pitch in as much they can, opening their classrooms for an hour after school to allow students to work.

"I think it's a good thing to allow students time outside of school to work on art," says art teacher Pat Sadler, "My door is open every Tuesday for students who love art and need the time to work."



Front Row: Parish Morris, Nicole Poole, Amber Cornett, Joe Zuniga, Caroline Herrera, Codie Olan, Charisse Bogan.



First row: Zachary Kisfalusi, Ashley Darrough, Jill Fitzgerald  
Second row: Savannah Mendoza, Jackie Lopez, Brooke Blackard, Matt Beck, Amanda Zaborowski, Rachel Cooper, Michelle Velez Third row: Dan Rodriguez, Ali Pietrucha, Jake Long, Pashon Newsom-Brady, Alyssa Van Horssen



First row: Cory Jung, Michael Beck, Morgan Mornolovich, Michelle Plucinski Second row: Russ Redke, Aimee Johnson, Katherine Kus, Anne Higginbotham, Kelly Bubala, Kristen Yost Third row: Zach Duvenjak, Abby Metsch, Alison Kinner, Kevin Konopasek, Sammi Holmes, Mark Blount Fourth row: Garrett White, Tod Basham, Sean Perez



Caroline Herrera



#### **annie 4 pres.**

The president of NHS is senior Annie Higginbotham. "I wanted to become president because I like the service projects and I wanted to help plan them," Higginbotham said.



Charisse Bogan

#### **What has NHS done this school year?**

- Helped run Blood Drive at GHS
- Organized Videotape Drive for Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago
- Helped run the breakfast with Santa at Beiriger
- Helped with Chili Supper at Beiriger
- Tutored GHS students
- Volunteered to help a Griffith citizen with their lawn over the summer



Page by Elizabeth Bancardi



Charisse Bogan

#### **w/out a worry**

At the blood drive, junior Ron Higginbotham lays down while giving blood. "I felt fine after giving blood, and it felt good to know that I did something good," said Higginbotham.

## **4 H3LPFUL H4ND**

(A Helpful Hand)



Erica Kuykka 12

National Honor Society is an activity that has been available for students since anyone can remember. This club is an organization that is meant to promote scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The sponsor is Sheila Vaclavik, head of the English department.

"This is my third year being the sponsor. The old sponsor resigned, and I thought I would love to work with this group of students," said Vaclavik.

Every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 in the morning, National Honor Society meets in Vaclavik's room to plan upcoming events.

"I like to vary activities, but they are all based on service. The students get firsthand experience seeing the community's needs," Vaclavik said.

National Honor Society has 34 members. The process for choosing members is long. First, Vaclavik gets a list of students with a GPA of 3.5 and higher. Then, those students receive a letter saying that they qualify for membership. The list also is sent to the faculty, so they can evaluate leadership and character of the students. After that, these students can fill out the application, which lists the various school and community extracurricular activities and organizations. In the end, Vaclavik takes all the applications, and uses a point system involving academics, service, and teacher evaluation to decide which students will be members.

Also, you can become an officer if you want. There are four positions available. The positions are currently held by president Annie Higginbotham, vice president Mark Blount, treasurer Cory Jung, and secretary Charisse Bogan, all of who are seniors.

Over this year, National Honor Society has participated in many activities. They collected used videos from the students to give to the Children's Memorial Hospital. Over the summer of 2008, students volunteered to help a Griffith citizen who was unable to do their yard work. Beiriger held two events, in which National Honor Society members helped out. One was breakfast with Santa that was open to public. The students helped serve the breakfast and do crafts with elementary students. Also, students helped with a chili dinner held at Beiriger. A blood drive was held on February 24th this year. Tutoring also took place throughout the school year.

# Senior National Honor Society



## nhs meetings

Meetings for National Honor Society are held in Sheila Vacalivik's English classroom. "I enjoy the blood drives. It's a really good cause to help strangers and sacrifice your own time," senior Melissa Pilipow said.

## w/ a little courage

Laying down to donate blood, junior Jill Fitzgerald relaxes. "I really wanted to help other people out, and give back to the community," said Fitzgerald.



**Front row:** Catherine Kus, Aimee Johnson, Cary Jung, Michelle Plucinski, Katie Lesnewski **Second row:** Erica Kudzba, Beth Thrall, Larry Matovina, Michael Beck, Charisse Bogan, Melissa Pilipow **Third row:** Mark Blount, Travis Lutke, Austin Guzio, Keith Mitchell, Kevin Konopasek

# Junior National Honor Society



## 4 a good cause

Junior Jimmy Burch volunteered to help out at the blood drive on February 25. "I gave people who were donating the information they needed. I also made sandwiches and gave drinks to everyone who donated," said Burch.



**Front row:** Ashley Darrough, Sara Winiecki, Rebecca Franken, Amber Crook **Second row:** Rachel Cooper, Jill Fitzgerald, Justin Phillips, Jake Long, Zach Kisfalusi, Shannyn Bias **Third row:** James Burch, Nick Biancardi, Jane Hurdish

### watin 2 play bball

"We were waiting to play three legged basketball. Homecoming was a blast. Being only a sophomore I look forward to more of them. I like being a sophomore but, there is a lot of work and more required classes," said sophomore Maggie Butkus.



### goofin around

To make the time pass in class, Juniors Patrick Ruesken and Michael Zaberda play around. "We were pretend fighting in a boring class," said Ruesken.

### showin off their guns

Trying to get a laugh out of his class, freshmen Troy Yarnelle and George Walker arm wrestle each other. "We were trying to make the whole class laugh and it worked; they were laughing," said Yarnelle.



Goodnight baby boo!

-Brittney Sanders, 10



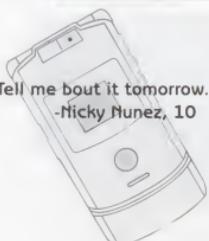
Rdy when u r.

-Matt Plawecki, 11



Tell me bout it tomorrow.

-Nicky Nunez, 10



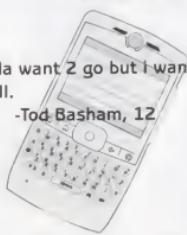
#### b4 class lookin snazzy

Spirit week was a big deal this year at Griffith High. "Tod [Basham] and I were talking before class about spirit week and how excited we were for it. It was dress up day which was on Monday so, we had the whole rest of the week left," said senior Cory Jung.

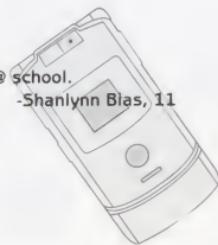


Amanda Collecioni

I kinda want 2 go but I want  
2 chill.  
-Tod Basham, 12



C u @ school.  
-Shaniyln Bias, 11



Barb Baldazo  
Brenda Bonewits  
Mary Cahill  
Ruth Carmichael  
Teresa Carstensen  
Christine Chidichimo



Sarah Cohen  
Kristina Collard  
Eddie Covarrubias  
Martha Davis  
James Ford  
Emily Gierman



Jim Graff  
Lorraine Hageman  
Bob Hastings  
Brian Jennings  
Kathy Keller  
Bonnie Manuel



Lisa Megquier  
Rachel Miller  
Veronica Moisant  
Mike Mulder  
Emily O'Brien  
Kay Orzechowicz



Amy Ott  
Jim Pickett  
Luann Pramuk  
Bo Radtke  
Russ Radtke  
Terri Ramos



Wendy Reigel  
Pat Sadler  
Beth Saliga  
Jim Saltanovitz  
Shannon Scheidel  
Justin Schroeder



Shannon Smith  
Marlene Starcevich  
Linda Tharp  
Mary Ann Tigner  
Sheila Vaclavik  
Julie Wencloff



Chris Wroblewski  
Linda Zaborowski





Raquel Mazur

**1 & uh ...&....&...tripplet &.....**

"The most difficult part about being a band director is the time commitment," said Jason Pearman, band. Pearman, who started at Griffith in 2005, has morphed the band from a nearly nonexistent one to a gold rating ensemble. "Directing ensembles is what I always wanted to do."



Raquel Mazur



Raquel Mazur

**en la clase de espanol dos**

"The part I enjoy about my job is helping students," said Barbara Papageorgakis, Spanish. Not only is Papageorgakis fluent in Spanish and English, but Greek and Slovakian. "The most stressful part about my job is the behavior of students. This is only my second year with teenagers."

**helpin ppl thru out the school yr**

Being a nurse for twenty-three years, Linda Zandstra had wanted to be one ever since she was a little girl. "I enjoy taking care of people," said Zandstra. "Being a school nurse offers great hours and it suits me with my family, but it is definitely different from what I was used to."



Raquel Mazur

### If u could choose, ware wuld u place fund #?



I would have it go towards the auditorium. I would tear it down and build it back up: new chairs, new curtains, and new technology. It would be a brand new auditorium and be up to date.

-Scott MacFarland, business



I would put it towards academics. It would be used for new technology, such as computers because we need more. Also, it would go towards teacher training and new methods of teaching.

-Martha Davis, science

**wrkn @ the board 2 teach alg2**

Showing how to solve polynomial equations, Jonathan Arndt, mathematics, watches the wheels turn in his students' heads. "I love what I do," said Arndt. "Students have a difficult time [with math]. I think I can make a difference teaching."

Ashley Ames  
Olivia Angulano  
Ashley Azzarello  
Hillary Baccino



Daniel Baggally  
Emily Bailey  
Mahogany Barnhardt  
Chris Bartley



Tod Basham  
Brittany Bechtold  
Michael Beck  
Kelsie Belcher



Kellie Blaski  
Mark Blount  
Charisse Bogan  
Shelby Boilek



Alexis Bozinovich  
Lindsay Brandner  
Corey Breclaw  
Gregory Brock





Kellie Bubala  
Mark Butkus  
Zachary Butkus  
Jennifer Buxton



<3in n studyn

Hard at work in their Chemistry II class, seniors Brandon Rukes and Melissa Pilipow partner up. Rukes said it isn't that hard to balance schoolwork and his relationship with Pilipow. "We spend up to three hours a night on homework, not including the time spent on tutoring, friends, and each other," Rukes explained.

wrkin 2 hard?

"The hour before the bus leaves for swimming meets is always great for finishing the day's homework," explained senior Katie Lesniewski. Here, Lesniewski uses that hour to complete her pre-calculus homework.

Ali Pietrucha

**Q n A!**

w/ Ali Kitner, 12

Q: What college do you plan on attending in the fall?  
A: "IU Bloomington, I think I'll be a Hoosier next year."

Q: What are you going to major in?  
A: "I'm going to major in political science."

Q: What are you going to miss most about high school?  
A: "I'll miss knowing everyone I'm going to graduate with. I'm definitely going to miss the Stuco and drama kids."

Q: What will you NOT miss about high school?  
A: "I'm not going to miss the childish antics or the non-vegetarian friendly cafeteria food."



Ali Pietrucha

Britney Cabrales  
Jorge Castillo  
Brandon Clark  
Kandice Cobb



Kenneth Companik  
Kevin Corrie  
Destiny Cox  
Amanda Craven



#### cu in the caf3teria

Lunch this year for senior Sara Nashkoff has been the best yet. "It's kind of sad because I know that after this year, I won't be coming back," she explained.



Annie Higginbotham

#### i wnt candy <3

During Jim Pickett's economics class, senior Brittany Marty snacks on a Kit-Kat. "I really liked Mr. Pickett and econ. He made it interesting, and funny, too."

## s3nior traditions



Abby Murchison, 12

Mike Scally, 12

"Of course I'm going to ditch on senior ditch day! I don't know what I'll do yet, but I'll probably just play tennis or something with some of my closest friends."

"I don't really plan on participating in a senior prank, but if I did, I would probably just release various livestock into the school. Like chickens, or cows."

Kenny Companik, 12



Heidy Phillips, 12



Cristine Padilla, 12



Nelson Oliver, 12



Kyle Lester, 12



Precious Sapphiredys, 12





Michael Cummins  
Bailey Curtis  
Ashley Davis  
Jacqueline Delgado



Keela Detmar  
Meagan Domanski  
Alexa Dragoin  
Carly Dunn



Zackary Duvnjak  
Shaun Fisher  
Jessica Flutka  
Zuri Fruin



Ryan Galihier  
Justin Gasper  
Ashley George  
Gina Gilge



Steven Gilman  
Nicholas Gonzalez  
Vanessa Gonzalez  
Kristen Graan



Melinda Griffith  
Michael Giustolisi  
Tyler Gustamente  
Austin Guzior



Brad Hardin  
Jemela Harris  
Brandi Heidler  
Jessica Henderson



**pushin ^ the glasses**

Dressed up in grandparents' clothes, senior Brooke Studniarz showed her spirit during Homecoming week. "I really liked spirit week this year. Grandparents day was exciting, but my favorite day was 80's workout day," she said.



Jaime Hernandez  
Caroline Herrera  
Ann Higginbotham  
Stephanie Hobbs



Samantha Holmes  
Patrick Irwin  
Mayada Issa  
Trevor Janke





Almee Johnson  
Ashleigh Johnson  
Brandi Jones  
Crystal Jones



Gregory Joyce  
Desiree Joyner  
Cory Jung  
Ryan Kalis



chatting it ^ @ lunch

Lunch time is a time to chat up with friends that you don't see all day. "I just got done with my lunch and we were all talking about our awesome weekend plans," said senior Lucinda Solis.

Annie Higginbotham



Daniel Keller  
Justin Kelley  
Kevin Keown  
Alison Kitner



Jessicka Knight  
Kevin Konopasek  
Elodia Krespo  
Erica Kudyba

### @ da game showin spirit

With the seniors cheering at the girls basketball game, the boys strut their stuff in their bikinis. "The theme was a beach party because Brandon Clark had the rubber duck, so we were inspired," said senior Mike Zurawski.



Annie Higginbotham

Katherine Kuna  
Catherine Kus  
Aaron Lannin  
Joseph Lara



Evan Laviolette  
Gabrielle Leimbach  
Ashley Lenker  
Katie Lesniewski



Kyle Lidster  
Travis Litke  
Albernard Logan  
Bryan Lopez



### If U could relive 1 moment in hi school what would it B?

"The accounting field trip with Renee Macfarland. It was the best because we ditched Mr. Mac., and made 'business transactions' at Forever 21."

Destiny Cox, 12

"Playing beach volleyball everyday at Central Park. It was a blast because I got to spend time with my friends and didn't have to worry about anything."

Brandon Rukes, 12

"I would relive homecoming week, all of spirit week. It was a great week and I went all out for my senior year."

Garrett White, 12

"Mine would have to be winning a state championship in hockey my freshmen year. The feeling was indescribable."

Brandon Clark, 12



Sean Malone  
Lauren Matthews  
Lawrence Matovina  
Alison McCampbell



Talia McKinstry  
Jeffrey Melton  
Abby Metsch  
Mark Miecznikowski



Katie Miller  
Keith Mitchell  
Michelle Mojica  
Morgan Momcilovich



Andrea Mullens  
Sara Nashkoff  
Philip Nay  
Araceli Nieves



Michael Noojin  
Stephanie Nowak  
Christine Obermeyer  
Codie Olar

Nelson Oliver  
Sean Perez  
Heidi Pierson  
Frances Pietrucha



Melissa Pilipow  
Michelle Plucinski  
Richie Popovich  
Joseph Ramos



Michael Ray  
Jordan Radar  
Mia Reitz  
Kirsten Rex



#### y33H@w!

All dressed up in cowgirl apparel, senior Charisse Bogan shows her school spirit during spirit week. "They called me Mr. Charles, I found it amusing," Bogan laughed.



#### t@sty :)

In her last year of GHS classes, senior Amanda Craven said, "I was in Pickett's econ class enjoying a Reese's." Seniors are required to take government and economics classes.

#### gOOD g@me

At a winter basketball game, senior Tod Basham sits in the student section and watches closely. "I was thinking about what I was going to do after the game, because it was boring."



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



Donald Roach  
Ashley Rodgers  
Katherine Rone  
Brandon Rukes



Michael Scally  
Melissa Sipos  
Kera Skinner  
Irma Solis



Lucinda Solis  
Anthony Solivais  
Robin Sophiae

## Plans after hi sk001?

"I plan on attending Ball State for writing and television communications."

- Larry Matovina, 12



"I'm planning on going to Ball State University and studying architecture."

-Erica Kudyba, 12



"I'm going straight to work in construction."

-Ernesto Torres, 12



**the wh33l On bu\$ go rOund**  
Sitting on the bus on the way to ISSMA for the GH5 band, senior Michael Beck said, "Getting gold for the second year in a row was the most fun part."

## n0thin 2 do

With dreams in mind, sitting in physics, senior Christopher Bartley said, "I love Mrs. KV because she rules!" Bartley also added, "It's my favorite class because cool people are in it."



## w@tchin c1ose

Paying close attention at a boys' varsity basketball game, seniors Brad Hardin and D.J. Roach watch. "Basketball games are a good way to catch up with friends," Roach said.

Christina Soy  
Steven Spataro  
Stacy Staszak  
Caitlin Stevens



Amanda Stinnett  
Brenton Strauch  
Brooke Studniarz  
Justine Sturgill



Natasha Subotic  
Ariel Sutton  
Chloe Thompson  
Elizabeth Thrall

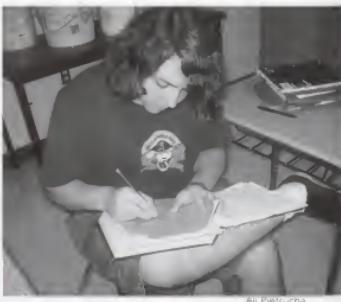


### time to get goIng!

Senior year is a time of laughs and smiles, but most of all, a time to get ready to move on in life. "I'm ready to start the new stage of my life. I'm ready to start college and just grow up," explained senior Cory Jung.

### I <3 muh chipz!!

During the day, people hang out with their friends in the hallway and enjoy the free time to talk and eat chips. Senior Keela Detmar explained her love for chips. "I eat chips any chance I can get!! I was eating Lays Salt and Vinegar."



Ali Pietrucha

### is "chemtacular" a word?

Some kids like their classes, others not so much. Senior Larry Matovina talked about how wonderful Chem II is. "I was just sittin' in chem, chemmin' it up. Chem it's a pretty chem-a-licious class and makes every day chem-tacular."



All Pictures

# senioritis?!



"Senioritis is debilitating. It's probably worse than Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I'm just thankful, that even though I should be a junior, I'm not."  
-Alex Little, 12

"There is nothing more torturous than sitting through eight hours of school when you know it's pointless to be here 2nd semester. I can't wait for 70 degrees and summer!"

-Catherine Kus, 12



uhm, im tryin 2 watch da game!  
You think the cheerleaders are the only ones cheering loud and having fun? Senior Kellie Bubala doesn't think so. "We were watching the football game against KV, and the seniors got into a cheer-a-thon against the cheerleaders. Needless to say, the seniors dominated!"

## not now, she's t3achin!

There are tons of ways students keep their eyes open during class, even if they aren't learning. "During class I usually draw. It helps me pay attention, and it keeps me from falling asleep," said senior Charisse Bogan.



Annie Higgins/Chatham



Alexandria Tibbs  
Michael Tinich  
Jeffrey Daniel Torok  
Nick Trauscht



Nick Uddchitz  
Ambermarie Vanwhite  
Paige Vargas  
Garrett White



Lorie Williams  
Kristen Yost  
Matthew Zurawski  
Michael Zurawski

Ethan Adams  
Daniella Alvarez  
Jacob Anderson  
Megan Anderson  
Victoria Anderson  
Barry Baitrusis



Quin Barwick  
Matthew Beck  
Alicia Begeske  
Nicholas Biancardi  
Shanlynn Bias  
Brooke Blackard



Nicholas Bobowski  
Brian Bock  
Jasmine Bonapartee  
Isaiah Booker  
Shavonne Boyd  
Jessica Breclaw



Brian Brillmyer  
Kier Brinkley  
Kiara Brown  
Eric Brumley  
Kara Buchholz  
Jessica Burbridge



James Burch  
Jackson Buzea  
Kevin Bynum  
Brianna Cannon  
Shannon Carpenter  
Kyle Carter



#### **drng sum dwntime n class**

Sharing a seat during environmental class with junior Anthony Marker, junior Nicole Hixon laughs at his remarks. "I'm ready to graduate," said Hixon. "I'm really lazy, and the classes here are too difficult." Hixon's favorite class this year was photography because she's in love with sophomore Nicole Poole!





Amaria Zaborowski

#### pumpin sum iron n APC

Having been in APC for a couple years, junior Nick Gallina spots junior Josh Sanders chest pressing. "I love being in APC," said Gallina. "Pilots are my favorite, but I hate having it first hour." Gallina is able to chest press 280 pounds himself.



Raquel Mazur

#### makin ppl :D @ B lunch

"My favorite part about lunch is my table," said junior Ron Higginbotham. Higginbotham's favorite lunch at school is hoagie day. "The funniest moment was when (Michael) Cummins opened the hot sauce."

#### zzing on the way home from 5B

Attempting to catch some shut-eye after a long day of marching competition, junior Kim Russell relaxes with her iPod. "It was a nice day, not too hot or anything," said Russell, "but the uniforms were really hot." Russell plays the snare for the band. "I got woken up a few times because of Raquel (Mazur) singing. I wanted to smother her with a pillow."

## If u could say 1 thing 2 sum1, wat wuld it b?

"You make my day twenty times better, and I could just marry you. (If I believed in that blasphemy.)"

- Daniella Alvarez, 11

"Words cannot describe my hatred for you. I could say every single thing that I hate about you, but it doesn't even matter because he loves me. I'm the one with the ring and all his love. That's something you never could have. I'm better than you could ever be to him."

-Trisha Keown, 11



Raquel Mazur

Samuel Carter  
Teresa Castellanos  
Amanda Chavez  
Joshua Chavez  
Christopher Cheatham  
Mareekar Cheatham



Cory Chidichimo  
Jose Cisneros  
Brittany Cobb  
Rachel Cooper  
Brennae Copp  
Matthew Corlett



Amber Cornett  
Amber Crook  
Jeremy Dalton  
Ashley Darrough  
Rachel Dennison  
Ashley Dodson



Mark Douglas  
Natalie Drach  
Catherine Drechny  
Erica Edwards  
John Evanich  
Michaela Ezell



Allysa Finck  
Angelia Fisher  
Jill Fitzgerald  
Jordan Fleurancois  
Michelle Fogarty  
Carly Francis



Rebecca Franker



#### 100kin on the comp

Working on a project in Delicia Smith's accounting and entertaining class junior Trisha Monroe concentrates on the computer. "I was working on the lesson we were learning. I love her class and I love Mrs. Smith," said Monroe.



Trishia Monroe



### gettin' info

In the library, juniors Angelina Ojeda and Alyssa Van Horssen are discussing the topic of their paper. "I am doing my paper on crime in the early 1900's, the prohibition, and Al Capone. I'm not excited to write it, but the topic is interesting," said Ojeda.



### m@kin' th3 gr@d3s

"My favorite thing about junior year is being one year closer to being done and graduating. The other thing about junior year that was the best was finishing 3rd in state for bowling," said junior Ryan McCoy. McCoy works on a project for accounting and entertainment class.



Frances Pietrucha

### m@kin' th3 gr@d3s

To get the good grades in Kristina Collard's English class, junior Shannon Carpenter must study for her upcoming test. "I always study for my tests because grades are important to me," said Carpenter.



## How embarrassing:o



"When I was in elementary school, I was pushing the cash register and it dumped over and broke. I ran away because all the boys were laughing at me."

-Katie Mitchell, 11

"Freshmen year at the talent show, my voice squeaked during my performance but I played it off with a smile on my face."

-Eric Brumley, 11



"I went to the doctors and they took my blood. I thought I was fine until I looked at the blood and passed out. When I woke up I had peed my pants and was wheeled out with wet pants!"

-Jane Hurdish, 11



Amanda Zaborowski

Jasmin Freeman  
Nick Gallina  
Aldo Garcia  
Ashleigh Gates  
Nicholas Gaydos  
Jeff Godlewski



Melany Gonzales  
Madeline Goodman  
Kristen Graan  
Kiara Gragido  
Azsha Grant  
Timothy Green



Stephen Greenwood  
Brittany Grigson  
Kristen Gulley  
Lauren Hansen  
Jeremiah Hardin  
Candace Hardy



Jada Harris  
Caitlyn Hayes  
Courtney Hayes  
Guillermo Hernandez  
Jacob Hernandez  
Kaitlyn Herron



Ronald Higginbotham  
Shelby Higgins  
Lakisha Hill  
Kelsey Hitt  
Nicole Hixon  
Joshua Holbrook



Shakia Holeman  
Angel Hyche  
Mahmmod Issa  
Cotta Jackson  
Meagan Jakubowicz  
Olivia Kalis



John Kantor  
Trisha Keown  
Steven Kepchar  
Kara Kessey  
Zachary Kisfalusi





Amarinda Zaborowski



Lisa Rata

### n English cl@ss

Known for being a class clown, junior Anthony Marker passes out literature books to students. "I was in Mrs. Collards class [English] and I was bored so I wanted to sweet talk Chrissy Leslie," said Marker.

### wOrkin On sp@nish wk

During James Ford's fourth hour class, junior Lauren Hansen works on Spanish activities from the book. "I was working on a Spanish activity. Me gusta el espanol, es muy divertido," [I like spanish, it is very fun] said Hansen.



Kaitlyn Dietrich

### t3xtln durlng cl@ss

Having some free time after school, junior Ashley Darrough texts her boyfriend. "I was texting my boyfriend Anthony Concialdi because he is in college and it's hard for us to talk," said Darrough.

### Q&A w/juniors

If you were to state what most teenagers have in common, what would you say?  
"We all go through a lot of same things in life."  
—Rachel Cooper, 11

If you had to name the one way in which you are most influenced by your peers, what is it?  
"I do whatever I want, so nobody really influences me."  
—Pat Ruesken, 11

If you never had to do homework in one subject again, which would it be?  
"Pre-calculus, because it's so hard!"  
—Brooke Blackard, 11

Three mobile phones are shown floating in the air, each displaying a different student's face and name: "Amarinda Zaborowski", "Angie Fojner, 11", and "Lisa Rata".

Amarinda Zaborowski

### makln ^ abs3nt wOrk

Staying focused, junior Johnny Kantor finishes a test he missed in Luann Pramuk's U.S. history class. "I was taking a test in the hallway because I was absent," said Kantor.



Lisa Rata

### m3st m3 @ th3 cOurty@rd 4 lunch

Outside in the courtyard, junior Rebecca Franker eats lunch with friends. "Me and my friends prefer going out to the courtyard for lunch instead of staying in the cafeteria, it's less noisy and I like the fresh air," said Franker.





Nicholas Kowalski  
Montana Kroslack  
Michael Lanfear  
Nathaniel Lara  
Megan Leitzke  
Christine Leslie



Wayne Lewis  
Kimberly Lindsay  
Brian Little  
Jacob Long  
Taylor Long  
Jacquelyn Lopez



Kylee Loudenber  
Jeremy Lukmann  
Terrell Mabry  
Meghan Macak  
Adam Mackenthun  
Anthony Marker



Christian Martinez  
Alexis Mata  
Michael Mayernik  
Raquel Mazur  
Caitlin McCabe  
Ryan McCoy



Sara McInerney  
Brittany Medley  
Lindsay Meece  
Savannah Mendoza  
Emily Million  
Darren Mills



Kaitlyn Mitchell  
Melissa Moisant  
Patricia Monroe  
Devon Moseley  
Dylan Moulesong  
Gregory Myers



### st0p bath...st0p what?

"I'm reacting to spilling chemicals on my hand as if I'd been contaminated with radiation," said junior Daniella Alvarez. She was developing negatives in her photography class.



Lisa Rafa

### sp@r3 ch@ng3?!

While in history class, junior Josh Sanders finds a way to pass time. "I am the man," he said. "There is no one better than me in the sport of penny hockey," he added.



Stephanie Negrete  
Pashon Newsom-Brady  
Joseph Nunez  
Angelina Ojeda  
Vivian Perez  
John Perryman



Justin Phillips  
Ali Pietrucha  
Matthew Plawecki  
Sara Popovich  
Andrew Pribyl  
Omar Quintanilla



Carissa Quintero  
Lisa Rafa  
David Ramirez  
Tony Ramirez  
Sydney Reis  
Alex Reyes



Charles Riehm  
Jessica Ritter  
Carissa Robbins  
Ashley Robinson  
Tationna Rockwood  
Daniel Rodriguez

Elizabeth Roman  
Patrick Ruesken  
Kalynn Ruiz  
Kimberly Russell  
David Rutherford  
Joshua Sanders



Dominic Scalzitti  
Valarie Scholte  
Peter Sepulveda  
Nicholas Sharp  
Stephanie Shively  
Jason Short



Curtis Singh  
Shawn Siokos  
Sarah Skertich  
Kyle Smith  
Marcole Smith  
Veronica Smith



Melissa Stadnik  
Dion Stammis  
Cory Stidham  
Kimberlee Swender  
Kyle Terpstra  
Andrew Thomas



Jared Tibbs  
Megan Troksa  
Aranda Valtierra  
Alyssa Van Horssen  
Juan Vazquez  
Michelle Velez



David Vido  
Jason Villalpando  
Ryan Voges  
Michelle Walczak  
Eric Weber  
Robert Welch



Richard Wilkerson  
Natisha Wlodarczyk  
Michael Zaberdac  
Amanda Zaborowski  
Abigail Zarndt  
Xochitl Zavala





Frances Pietrucha

**@ the comp**

Trying to find books related to his topic for his research paper, junior Peter Sepulveda searches on one of the library's computers. "We read *The Jungle* and then we had to pick a topic related to the book," said Sepulveda.



Frances Pietrucha

A graphic design featuring three MP3 players arranged horizontally. Each player has a small portrait of a student on its screen. Below each player is a quote from a student about what it would be like if they were principal. The quotes are:

- "There would be no dress code." -Melany Gonzales, 11
- "There would be more vegetarian lunches." -Lindsay Meece, 11
- "Everyday would be junior ditch day." -Emily Million, 11
- "We'd wear hoodies." -Josh Sanders, 11



Amanda Zabrowski

**h3lpin' da t3@ch3r**

By returning papers to students, junior Natalie Drach helps out her teacher by saving time. "I pass back papers whenever a teacher asks me to pass them back," said Drach.

**m@king up wrk.**

"This year, English has been a lot harder because we move really quickly," said junior Caitlin McCabe. McCabe is copying down missed assignments from the day before.



Frances Pietrucha

**takin' n0tes**

"My paper is over muck and slurry in the cities during the 1900's. It's kind of interesting, but I would rather talk about it than write a research paper about it," said junior Sara Popovich of her research paper for her English class.



Amanda Zabrowski



Amanda Zabrowski



Jonathan Acevedo  
Zachary Adams  
Natalie Aguilera  
Mario Aldape  
Raymond Alvarez  
Jamere Averyhart



Alexander Bailey  
Stephanie Baker  
David Baldazo  
Katelyn Barta  
Rebecca Basaleh  
Eric Bean



Brian Beaupain  
Amy Belcher  
Elizabeth Biancardi  
Kaitlyn Biancardi  
Timothy Biancardi  
Jack Blount



Matthew Bluhm  
Logan Bocock  
Calvin Bonewits  
Martin Bowman  
Amanda Boyer  
Zachary Bozinovich



Amanda Zaborowski

#### cre@ting pics

"This class is great because I never knew how much effort picturemaking took," said sophomore Laura Hurdish. Hurdish is trying to remember what to do next.

#### just r3l@xin'

After listening to a health lecture, sophomore Chrissy Colgrove likes to talk to people in her health class. "After we finish our work in health, it's nice to talk to people," said Colgrove.



Amanda Zaborowski



# If U could change a rule...



"We'd be able to have pockets."  
-Maggie Butkus, 10



"We'd get out of class earlier."  
-Zach Pirtle, 10



"We'd be able to text all day."  
-Katelyn Barta, 10



Sara Brouillette  
Fernanda Bugarin  
Margaret Butkus  
Matthew Butkus  
Kristi Buxton  
Desiree Cadiz



Katie Cahill  
Mia Campbell  
Kristyn Cannon  
Nelisa Caraballo  
Kyriah Carter  
Avery Chandler



Cassie Christenson  
Amanda Clark  
Tyler Coglianese  
Christine Colgrove  
Alejandro Cordova  
Presley Corrich



Marcell Cotton  
Nick Crachy  
Garret Craven  
Paul Craven  
Timothy Creighton  
Cristal Cuadra



Christopher Curnow  
Jillian Dixon  
Michael Dobosz  
Jessica Domanski  
Travis Doppler  
Jaime Drummond





Ali Pietrucha

### no ch3atin

To receive a good grade, you need complete quiet. Here, sophomores Jamie Drummond and Sarah Brouillette concentrate on their textiles test in dead silence. "It's hard to focus on tests when the classroom is noisy," said Drummond.

### time 4 si33p

Cuddled up in a blanket at the student council lock-in, sophomore Alyssa Lanting gets ready for some sleep. Lanting explained that she doesn't really like being a sophomore because, "You don't do anything, you're just kind of stuck in the middle."

### jus k33p swimmin, swimmin

Hot, but not cold, sophomore Charles Roberson works hard at swim practice. Swim practices are usually everyday after school, and many swimmers end up sick at the end of the season.

### take 5!

Having four to five hour practices everyday and trying to complete all your homework on time can be rough. Sophomore Amy Beicher said that her least favorite part of drama was, "All the practices, it was stressful."

Gilbert Eatman  
Melody Elkins  
Nikia Ellison  
Brianna Erwin  
Dylan Etheridge  
Eric Falkner



Matthew Ficht  
Ryan Fisch  
Chloe Fox  
Andrea Franklin  
Megan Gale  
Roberto Gamez



Arturo Garcia  
Quinette Garland  
Kaitlyn Gilbert  
David Gonzalez  
Nicholas Goode  
Davion Grace



Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha



All Pietricha

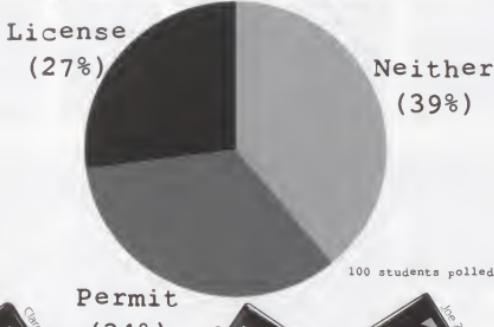
#### takin not3s

"I don't really like to take notes," stated sophomore Kyle Jursic. Taking notes is helpful to your learning, but it can be hard to concentrate on writing for fifty minutes in a row, especially at the end of the day.



Udo Rata

## who driv3s, who tri3s to, n whos still ridin shotgun...



#### talkin it ^

Because it's an easy A with little homework, sophomores Alexis Morikis and Cortney Massi chat in health class. "There's a group of us that talk in that class, it's like a corner section in the back," said Morikis.

#### k33p walkin, dnt stop

With a snack handy, sophomore Zachary Pirtle roams the hallways instead of sitting in health class during first hour. Many students eat breakfast during first hour in hopes that it will calm their hunger until lunch.



All Pietricha



Kevin Graham  
Matthew Grahovac  
Andrew Griggs  
Hannah Hack  
Bashar Haddad  
Nicole Hamill



Cody Hamilton  
Tyler Hamilton  
Anthony Hanlon  
Courtney Hauser  
Rachell Hayes  
Tabitha Helfen



Jessica Hermosillo  
Brooke Hobbs  
Dustin Holycross  
Regina Hope  
Laura Hurdish  
Sarah Hurdish

Daniel Huzzle  
Alex Irvin  
Ashwaq Issa  
Cedric Jeter  
Carlos Jimenez  
Jacob Johnson



Lindsay Johnson  
Mi'Sha Johnson  
Brian Jones  
Donovan Jones  
Kelly Jones  
Gabriella Joyner



Kyle Jursic  
Angela Keith  
Jaime Keller  
Dontrell Kelly  
Daniel Kime  
Joshua Kisfalusi



Timothy Klingensmith  
Chad Koble  
Courtney Koleski  
Joyce Lagestee  
Alyssa Lanting  
Alex Latronica



Naquel Hazur

#### rockin Out sophomore3 y34r

"During spirit week, 80's day was my favorite day because I like the 80's and I love to dress up and be colorful," said sophomore Britney Sanders. Spirit week consisted of 5 days with a different theme each day.

#### Which High Skool Sport is the Most Entertaining 2 Watch?

"My favorite is basketball because the crowd is always big and there is a lot of energy."

-Tyrell Tinnin, 10



"My favorite is volleyball because it's my favorite sport overall."

-Katie Gilbert, 10



"Football is my favorite because it's my favorite sport to play."

-Calvin Bonewits, 10



Macie Morris, 10



Justin Camp, 10



Cortney Lenker  
Deborah Leslie  
Robert Lewis  
Keith Lidster  
Samantha Marker  
Monique Martin



Cortney Massa  
Jasmine Mata  
Ashley Matthews  
Cassandra McDaniel  
Samantha McInerney  
Megan McVicker



Christopher Melton  
Maricarmen Meraz  
Matthew Mercer  
Rachel Mierzwka  
Danny Miller  
Cody Modglin



#### study first, pl4y l8r

While working on her chemistry homework in Shannon Scheldel's room, sophomore Katie Ranck said, "I learned the most in chemistry A, but my favorite class is history because there's a lot of people in there that make me laugh."



Raquei Maes

#### wh4t's old is n3w again

"I liked my sophomore spirit week better than my freshman spirit week because 80's workout day was fun to dress up to," said sophomore Rebecca Basaleh, who was dressed for grandparents day.



Amanda Zaborowski

#### sn4ck tim3

Stopping at the vending machine for a bite to eat before class, sophomore Brandon Soy declared his love for skittles. "I was getting skittles because they're delicious," said Soy.





Ali Pietrucha

**@ll wOrk & nO pl@y**

Taking Notes for Jenna Berzy's World History class is something this class does often. "I really like World History, but we take a whole lot of notes," said sophomore Rebecca Basaleh.

**tim3 for a br3@k**

After finishing some class notes, sophomores Courtney Massa takes time out to converse about her weekend plans. "So far I've had a good year, except I don't really care for the new dress code," said Massa.



Ali Pietrucha



Ali Pietrucha

**Whose favorite memory is whose?**

Derek Revis, 10



Natalie Aguilera, 10



Jack Blount, 10

A. "Making Turnabout court"

B. "Beating Hobart for our football season"

C. "Playing Varsity football"

**n0 tim3 for sl@cking**

Quietly working on a test, sophomore Katie Ranck focuses on getting an "A." "I enjoy taking Interior Decorating because we don't take a lot of tests and we get a lot of free time," said Ranck.



Ali Pietrucha

**whippin' ^ s0m3th1ng g00d**

International Foods, taught by Emily Gierman, cooks different foods from around the world. "I really liked going to Jedi's and cooking food in the kitchen there," said sophomore Billy Rogers.

**checkin' her b10g**

"I like doing different things in class, like going to the computer lab. We went there to do research for a book we read in class," said sophomore Jasmine Trotter. Going the computer lab is a good way to still learn but, gives the kids a chance to get out of the class.



Ali Pietrucha



Alexis Morikis  
Parish Morris  
Derek Moseley  
Kyle Mull  
Nicolette Nunez  
Tiriek O'Banion



Alicia O'Brien  
Brian Orzechowicz  
Lauren Paprocki  
Ashley Parish  
Lindsay Pierce  
Zachary Pirtle



Christopher Plucinski  
Nicole Poole  
Kristen Pospsychala  
Gabrielle Powell  
Katie Ranck  
Emily Reba



Zachary Reed  
Taylor Reitz  
Jordan Rex  
Ryan Riddle  
Charles Roberson  
Imani Ross



Joey Rush  
Brittney Sanders  
Kyra Scheeringa  
Anna Schell  
Amber Schoenborn  
Darryl Scott



Cassandra Shanks  
Luis Silva  
Michael Sims  
Collin Slagle  
Brianna Smith  
Lindsey Sopetti



Michelle Sopetti  
Brandon Soy  
Zachary Spires  
Jeremy Starks  
James Steinhubel  
Shauntia Suggs

### **play ur <3 out**

For All Shook Up, sophomore Ashley Matthews played the clarinet because "clarinet players rock!" She and the fellow pit band members became close friends. "After every practice we would hangout, and I'll miss that," said Matthews.



Raquei Mecer

### **coloring the skool**

Sophomore Alyssa Lanting loves colorguard and all the girls in it, but sometimes the drama takes over. "The drama in color guard has to be the worst," said Alyssa. "It's never good when girls waving big flags get mad at eachother."



Caroline Herreid

### **FOOtball fun**

Sophomore Presley Corich loves going to the Griffith football games. "I really enjoy screaming and yelling at the games, but I hate when people yell at me for yelling. I'm just showing my support for the team."

### **sw33t r3v3ng5**

Destroying the girls' drama dressing room has long been a tradition, one that sophomore Jeremy Starks loves to be a part of. "I don't regret anything. I would go back again if I had to, and still have a great time."



Raquei Mecer

### **dress 4 success**

From grandparents day to 80s work-out day, sophomore Courtney Massa loved participating during spirit week. "My favorite day was Cowboy Junction, and next year I would love to have Toga Day," said Massa.



Raquei Mecer



Allie Strucke



Taylor Surowiec  
Tim Takacs  
Amanda Tatge  
Jeffrey Tinich  
Sara Torres



Jasmine Trotter  
Brooke Trueblood  
Kylee Ulm  
Kyle Uylaki  
Seth Verbich



Tyler Vestal  
John Vinson  
Kelsey White  
Megan Wilbert  
Tyler Wilson



Jake Writt  
Clarence Young  
Richard Zakrzewski  
Amy Zellers  
Joe Zuniga

## What song best describes your sophomore year?

A.



1. "Thunder" - Boys Like Girls

B.



2. "Jasey Rae" - All Time Low

C.



3. "Hot 'N' Cold" - Katy Perry

D.



4. "Everret Jasmire" -  
The Elation



**@ a party**

Hanging out with sophomore friend Alexis Morikis, freshman Kalle Lastagarkov comments on her first year of high school. "This year, I've had a blast. It's been interesting."



Raquel Mazur

Eeryn Abram  
Samantha Aguilar  
Cristina Aldape  
Brittany Anderson  
Josh Ashenbaugh  
Amber Atkins



Erik Augustyn  
Ryan Avalos  
Mallory Baccino  
Melanie Baeza  
Caitlin Bailey  
Nathan Bailey



Amanda Bakko  
Jordanne Banas  
Brianna Bias  
Ryan Biegel  
Dariene Blackowl  
Vanessa Blankenship



Lisa Blaski  
Ryan Bluhm  
Joshua Bodnar  
Kelsey Bonewits  
Elizabeth Booker  
James Botkin



**What is the funniest thing that has happened to you this year?**

"At lunch, I was taking a drink of water and someone made me laugh, then I spit it out on one of the teachers."  
 -Aisha Darrough, 9

"In one of my basketball games, I made the referee fall."  
 -Brandon Cole, 9

"In English class, my friend kicked me and I chased her and she fell in the middle of the classroom. Mr. Shroeder did not even notice."  
 -Brittany Anderson, 9



Stephanie Brandner  
Tatya-na Briner  
Brooke Brinkley  
Ashley Brown  
Nicholas Brummett  
Tiffany Burbridge



Melinda Burk  
Sarah Cadena  
Jeremy Camp  
Justin Camp  
Daniel Campos  
Alyssa Carter



Margaret Cartwright  
Priscilla Caudillo  
Joshua Chalifoux  
Adam Cloroiaru  
Sarah Clark  
Jasmine Cleveland



Brandon Cole  
Michael Concialdi  
Adele Cox  
Rhiannon Cox  
Ellison Cullen  
Donovan Danforth



#### drng notes

To learn a new language is hard for most people. "French is my hardest class because I have to learn a whole new culture," said freshman Kelly Lannin as she takes notes.

#### rdy 2 answer

Sitting in his English class, freshman Thomas McCoy explained, "Miss Miller is my favorite teacher because she always makes me laugh during class." When teachers are funny it makes the class more enjoyable.



Caroline Herrera

#### rdy 2 drw

"I actually like Drawing class because I like learning how to draw in different ways," said freshmen David Stokes as he draws contour lines for the project the class was working on.



Caroline Herrera

Aisha Darrough  
Cody Davidson  
James Davidson  
Shelby Day  
Alyssa Delgado  
Gabriel Dillon



Morgan Dillon  
Benjamin Domanski  
Alice Duhon  
Kylah Eatman  
Needra Ellison  
Amanda Falcon



Shi Fassoth  
Cole Felde  
Allisha Filiczkowski  
Edward Fitzgerald  
Robert Fleishman  
Na' Quisha Fleming



#### did u see da game?

March 6th and 7th the Griffith Panthers played their sectional games at Calumet High School. Freshman Zach Muller comments on the action. "The sectional game was crazy. There was a whole bunch of yelling."



#### doodlin away

High school is a new and exciting experience for many students. "I like having more opportunities in high school and I feel more grown up," said freshman Ellison Cullen.



Amanda Zaborowski



#### "By my senior year..."

"I would like to get all my credits for the honors diploma."  
-Tori Louviere, 9

"I want to win regionals for basketball."  
-Brooke Brinkley, 9

"I want to graduate and then go to college."  
-DJ Johnson, 9

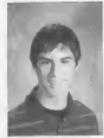
"I want to win first at state for Pantherettes!"  
-Sarah Guistolisi, 9



Jayvier Fletcher  
Rachelle Fogarty  
Austin Foster  
Hunter Fox  
Renee Franker  
Shawn Gallina



Sayvon Gamble  
Rachel Garastik  
Samantha Gardner  
Stephan Gartner  
Olivia Gates  
Jillian Gautreaux



Jimmy Gaydos  
Skylar Gilman  
Holley Glascoff  
Lucas Glass  
Adriana Gonzalez  
Jessica Goodson



Amanda Lubertowksi

### aft skool

For some people, high school can be a scary place to be. "I thought I wouldn't make it to any of my classes on the first day, and the upperclassman scared me," said freshman Jenny Lanfear.



Amanda Lubertowksi

### 100k'n around

Students are given many choices when they come to high school. "I like the new experiences and having new classes, especially art class because I'm good at it," said freshman James Botkin.



# Match the freshman to their favorite class!

A.

Jennifer Lanfear, 9

1. Construction Process

B.

Ariana Suarez, 9

2. French

C.

Mark Rex, 9

3. Choir

Answers: 1B 2A 3C

Kyle Gora  
Ryan Graan  
Jodeci Grabos  
Brittany Green  
Khaili Griggs  
Steven Gronkiewicz



Daniel Gross  
Curtis Groves  
Sarah Guistolisi  
Stacie Hansen  
Clarissa Hardy  
Courtney Hargis



Dijon Harris  
Whitney Harwell  
Imani Henderson  
Riley Henderson  
Justin Herrera  
Rhiannon Hilliard



Raleigh Hinkle  
Donald Hoover  
Tina Horton  
Kody Hosein  
Breona Huff  
Kendall Jenkins



Briana Jones  
Kanesha Jones  
Joseph Kalocinski  
Michael Kent  
Joel Kepchar  
Peter Kiel





Adrian Knepper  
Elizabeth Kras  
Kyle Kronland  
Nicholas Kudyba  
Lisa Kurpela  
Jennifer Lanfear



Kelly Lannin  
Kalie Lastagarkov  
Colin Laviolette  
Cody Lejeune  
Cali Lemus  
Megan Lesniewski



Michelle Lesniewski  
Theodore Linders  
Garrett Litke  
Tori Louliere  
Alphonse Maldonado  
Avery Maherich



Patrick Mailard  
Steven Malone  
Matthew Marciniec  
Haley Marshall  
Natasha Martin  
Leslie Martinez



Nicholas Mazur  
Kyle McCarley  
Keeli McDaniel  
Brittni McLemore  
Robert Megquier  
Alexander Mendoza



Cesar Mercado  
Alysla Metsch  
Marissa Mihalick  
Melissa Miller  
Amelia Morales  
Jonathon Morikis



Tyler Morrison  
Zachary Muller  
Marisa Mureiko  
Brianna Nagel  
Joseph Narolewski  
Eric Navarro



Mark Nellerman  
Brianna Nelson  
Francisco Nevarez  
Alyssa Niewiadomski  
Ashley Noojin  
Jerry Nowak



### **t4kin 4 lock3r br34k**

"The hardest part of being a freshman is that the upperclassmen are always rude to you," said freshman Ashley Hoojin while making a quick stop at her locker.

### **h4ngin out in th3 h4llw4y**

Intently reading a book in the hallway, freshman Anton Calvert talks about his favorite freshman class, "My favorite class is gym because I'm the most athletic kid alive."



Amanda Zaburorski



Amanda Zaburorski

Agnes O'Brien  
Andrew O'Brien  
Angela O'Dell  
Chloe Oliver  
Jarred Ooka  
Jiles Ooka



Victor Parra  
Desiree Perkovich  
Justin Pernick  
Laneshia Phillips  
Ean Plude  
Daniel Rafa



Nikki Rapka  
Sherrald Ray  
Benjamin Reitz  
Billie Reitz  
Derek Revis  
Mark Rex



Brianna Reyes  
Jianni Rivera  
Brandon Robbins  
Katelyn Roberts  
Alyssa Robertson  
Allison Romesburg





## W4t W4s th3 H4rd3st L3sson u L34rn3d Durng Yer Fr3shm4n Yr?

"It's hard learning that the older kids can be better friends than people in your own grade."

-Elizabeth Kras, 9

"Never go through the varsity locker room to get to the freshman gym locker room because the upperclassmen are not very friendly."

-Nick Kudyba, 9

"The hardest lesson I learned freshman year was that sometimes friends leave and you have to let them go."

-Stacie Hansen, 9

"I thought it was hard trying to figure out where my friends and I were going to sit in the cafeteria."

-Miguel Valtierra, 9

### workin h4rd 4 th3 gr4d3s

While taking notes, freshman Kalissa Greenlaw talked about her favorite teacher, "My favorite teacher is Ms. Smith because she's so alive and active, and I like talking to her."



*Caroline Herrera*



Catena Root  
Gregory Rothchild  
Nicholas Ruiz  
Amy Russell  
Hope Ryan  
Janessa Salinas



Esperanza Sanchez  
Tiffany Sanders  
Shanaiza Scheeringa  
William Scheffel  
Jacob Schnoor  
Sydney Segovia



Sarah Shaffer  
Deshonna Shaw  
Holly Shew  
Andrew Short  
Omar Silva  
Adrienne Simpson



Shae Siokos  
Jessica Smith  
Kevin Smith  
Vanessa Smith  
Rachel Solar  
Victoria Solivais

### **out 2 eat**

Having a blast at Navy Pier, freshman Amy Russell and Victoria Solivais talk about lunch. "The best part of the field trip was having two hours to eat and do whatever we wanted," said Russell.

### **2 much hmwk**

Some teachers allow their students to do their homework in class. Sitting in class, freshman Miquel Valtierra gets a head start on his homework. "My favorite class is choir," said Valtierra.



Caroline Herrera

### **@ lunch**

For some students, lunch is their favorite time of the day. "My favorite part of lunch is being able to hang with my friends and eat," said freshman Kalie Lastagarkov.



Caroline Herrera



Raquel Mazur

### **on the cmpter**

Typing on the computer in digital communications is freshman Caitlin Bailey. "I like this class because it's basically a blow-off class and it's exciting," said Bailey.



Caroline Herrera

## **What were you most afraid of freshman year?**

"People telling me the wrong classes to go to."

-George Walker



"Lunch because I didn't know where I was going to sit."  
-Shae Siokos, 9



"Not finding my classes."  
-Hanna Vrabely, 9



"Being shoved into lockers."  
-Garrett Walter, 9





Jeremy Soy  
Allen Spejewski  
Emily Stack  
Nicholas Stassin  
Joshua Steele  
Taylor Steffan



Robert Stevens  
David Stokes  
Nicholas Street  
Ariana Suarez  
Sarah Sutherland  
Robert Szabo



Macie Szczepkowski  
Kelsey Taylor  
Jennifer Teasdale  
Alejandra Tellez  
Emilee Trueblood  
Justin Turner



Megan Tuttle  
Jonathon Uchman  
Javier Urena  
Joseph Vaclavik  
Miguel Valtierra  
Crystal Vanwhite



Katalina Villalpando  
Hanna Vrabely  
Chance's Walker  
Garrett Walter  
Morgan White  
Danera Williams



Robyn Williams  
Emily Witvoet  
Nicole Witzke  
Julianne Writt  
Troy Yarnelle  
Jordan Zarndt



Jessica Zubik  
Ryan Zubrick

### **Working hard**

Working hard on her newspaper spread, junior Jessica Ritter goes on the computer during her aide hour. "In my other class I have a lot of homework assigned, but I do the majority of it during that same class hour. When I do homework at school it is surprising how little I have to do at home," said Ritter.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



### **listen 4 the info**

Instead of sleeping in his Calculus class, senior Nelson Oliver stays alert and takes notes on the day's lesson. "I like to take notes because they help me later when I am doing my homework," said Oliver.

### **focusing on the job**

Hard at work trimming his pot for ceramics, senior Aaron Lannin works. "Besides my work in this class I have a decent amount of homework in all my other classes. I get my work done at school so I hardly have any work to do at home," said Lannin.



Annie Higginbotham

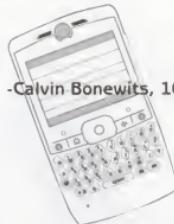
Ok.

- Mallory Baccino, 9



Bye.

- Calvin Bonewits, 10



GOODnight.

- Bailey Curtis, 12



# STUDY HR?

## STUDY// HOUR?

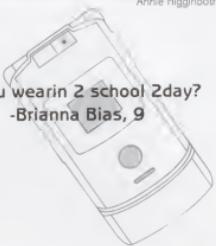
**A**cademics are really important to people. Throughout the four (...OMG) years of school, to some people it is all about making the grades, and to others the four years is all about having a great time (...=]. A good amount of studying will have to happen if a student wants to get good grades. For students to be committed to their studies they have to decide that early on in high school. Are you going to be the type of student who goes home right after school and do your homework, or are you going to be the student who goes home and finds any excuse not to do your homework? During the first year of school it should be decided what kind of student you want to be. It's hard to turn around your grade point average if you did horrible your freshmen year. To be committed to your grades students should allow for many hours of homework and nights full of studying. If you are going to be all about the studies then most likely you will be in the advanced classes, which pile on the work every night (...=[]). "I usually have no more than two hours of homework a night," said Junior Jill Fitzgerald. Students may be lucky in the sense that they don't get a lot of homework. "I do have homework, but not a lot so I don't have to do much at home," said sophomore Zack Bozinovich. Then there are the students who just don't do their homework until that morning or they do it in that class. Once regular class work is out of the way it comes time for tests. After people do their homework then they might or might not study for tests. Some students don't want to take the time to study and just wing it for the test. "I once studied for an advanced placement biology test for four hours (...OMG)," said Fitzgerald. Whether a person picks to be all about academics or enjoying themselves, pick a path that fits you. School can be super hard if you choose to make it that way, or it could be easy and you could have a awesome time.

### w/teachs help

To make her pot better, senior Lex Bonzinovich gets the teachers' assistance. "I was making a pot for ceramics. I am glad I took the class, it is a really enjoyable one," said Bonzinovich.

Annie Higginbotham

Wat u wearin 2 school 2day?  
-Brianna Bias, 9



Ok (cool) lol  
-Sam Carter, 11





# don't blow 'em off!

Don't blow them off!

While many students study hard for their main classes that they must take each year, they also must fit different classes into their busy schedules. These classes are known as electives. These classes could be considered as "blow-off" classes in some students' minds, or also be just as challenging as the Core 40 classes.

Jewelry class is one of these classes for junior Ashley Dodson, although she seemed to like the class. "Jewelry was very time-consuming, so if you procrastinated then you wouldn't get your stuff done," said Dodson.

Digital Communications Tools is also a popular class. Freshman Ryan Avalos stated, "Playing on the computers and games are the best because they're exciting."

For GHS' muscular males and females, advanced physical conditioning, better known as APC, is a popular elective taken to stay in shape. "It's kind of intimidating being one of the only girls in APC because all the guys are lifting so much weight and you can't lift as much as them," stated sophomore Ashley Parish.

Many students also choose to take media arts, or photography class. After completing one semester of this class a student is eligible to be a photographer on the *Panther Press* or *Reflector* staff.

Junior Stephen Greenwood likes his French class. "Mrs. Hageman makes the class interesting cause she doesn't keep with the same boring stuff," he said. French and Spanish classes are considered electives. At least two years of a foreign language is needed for a Core 40 high school diploma, and three years of a foreign language are needed for a Core 40 with honors diploma.

Junior Nicholas Sharp exclaimed, "Just do work and you'll pass!" Sharp takes CAD class, also known as computer aided design, in which you design things on the computers which can help many students with their future careers that they would like to pursue.

Even though some electives are more fun than others, all GHS students should put forth their best effort to make the grades that they would like to achieve.



Alfredina Zaborowski

## lift th@t w8

"I like APC because you get to workout and get 'swoll' for the next football season," sophomore Gilbert Eatman said. Eatman and sophomore Kevin Graham were strengthening up in APC.

## typin' f@st

Preparing to type on her computer in Digital Communications Tools, sophomore Helisa Caraballo said, "We type and learn about the keyboard, and I like the games on Fridays."





Amanda Zaborowski



Amanda Zaborowski

## b3st p@rt of cl@ss?

"The choir's spring concert is always the most fun because we get to do choreography and a lot of singing."

-Amanda Stinnett, 12



"The best thing about life-guarding is you get a credit for having fun and playing around in the pool, and meeting freshmen."

-Jacob Anderson, 11



### we <3 c@ke

Working hard to improve her culinary skills, freshman Renee Franker bakes a cake. "In foods class we did a competition that was very exciting. We made a confetti cake," Franker said.

### cOncentr8ing h@rd

During the pot making process, senior Kevin Corrie said, "A lot of the projects in ceramics got kind of backed up. The only problem you have is if you let it dry too long, it will wind up cracking."



Amanda Zaborowski

### w@rm & c0mfy

To finish her project, sophomore Michelle Sopetti works hard in Textiles 2. "My favorite project was making pajama pants because they're awesomely fuzzy and cute!" Sopetti exclaimed.



# Makin' Ppl lol drng skool

Making people laugh out loud during school

**C**lass clowns can bring a great deal of entertainment to any class, but they can also cause a great deal of disturbance. Timing is everything to a class clown. They know how to gain attention from people, whether it is positive or negative.

Over time, the definition of the class clown has evolved. The antics of a class clown have ranged from pulling pranks and practical jokes to making fun of any target in a mean-spirited way. More recently, the class clown likes to speak out during class and put a smile on anyone's face.

According to sophomore Matthew Grahovac a class clown must possess several qualities. "They need to be totally random, witty, and funny," Grahovac said. "I like how they can make everyone in the class laugh, it makes school a lot easier to go through."

Although class clowns can provide enjoyment they can also cause distractions. Sophomore Jaime Keller feels that class clowns can sometimes cause disorder during class. "I don't like when they are not funny, they just become very annoying," Keller said.

Class clowns can be a great addition to any school. Although they can sometimes be a nuisance, they generally bring a good atmosphere to the classroom. Class clowns are a necessity to a good environment in school. Without them, school could not be enjoyable during all the boring classes.



## Flyin' high n the hallway

"I like to tell funny jokes and make funny faces to get a laugh," explained junior Meghan Macale. Here, she gets laughs by going all out crazy and jumping as high as she can in the hallway.

Photo: Maggie Mazzoni

## Spke it up

While the mohawk may make a cool fashion statement for junior Jake Anderson, hair that tall can be quite a distraction for teachers and classmates. "I actually had to take it down in one class because the teacher didn't like it," said Anderson.





Samie Higginbotham

### Fight to th3 Dth

Having a classic ruler sword fight in physics, seniors Tod Basham and Garrett White like messing around during class to pass the time. "I do whatever comes to my mind," White said.

### Sit in bck n rlxin

To relax after a little clowning around, senior Michael Beck kicks his feet up and sits back with a peppermint candy cane in his physics class. "I just act like myself. I don't try to act like anyone else," Beck explained.



Annie Higginbotham

## Who is the funniest class clown?

"I think [sophomore] Brian Beaupain is a funny class clown because he is a crazy guy."

-Tony Hanlon, 10

"I think [freshman] Shi Fassoth is a class clown because she doesn't care what people think."

-Sam Aguilar, 9

"[Junior] Nick Kowalski is a funny class clown because he has a lot of funny jokes."

-Michelle Velez, 11



Annie Higginbotham

### Chug it

Because of sophomore Jeremy Starks random comments and hilarious jokes, many students consider him a class clown. "I like to do random things during class to make people laugh," Starks said in between jokes.



photo provided

wir3 m3 ^

Happy and ready to learn about wiring, junior Michael Mayernik work on a project during his construction class at the Career Center. "I was drilling a hole to put wires through," said Mayernik.



photo provided

0.0

"We were doing CPR on the babies," said junior Teresa Castellanos. Castellanos goes to the Career Center for the health program. "We also learn how to help a baby when it's choking," she added.

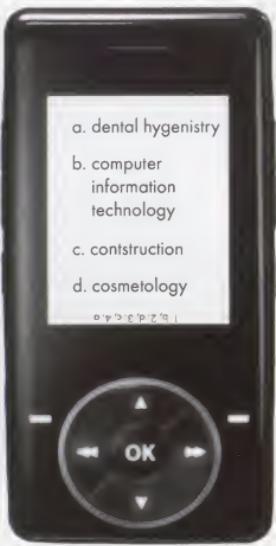


## Wh0 d03s wat?

1.



Anthony Rodriguez, 11



2.



Lina Solis, 12

3.



Jeremy Leikom, 11

4.

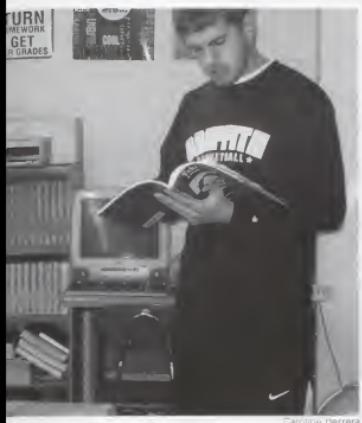


Breanna Corp., 11



### t3@ch 2 13@rn

To experience something new, senior Greg Joyce enjoys cadet teaching. "I tutor little kids in the morning and run errands for the teacher," said Joyce. He goes to Belvoir Elementary School first and second hour every day.



Caroline Herrera



Photo by: Caroline Herrera



For a new way to learn...  
*4 a new way 2 13@rn...*

**M**any Griffith High School students choose to gain knowledge and experience through alternative learning. Students can choose from a few options of out-of-the-box learning. They can attend dual credit courses at local colleges, go to the Career Center, or even go to one of the four Griffith elementary schools to aid and learn from the teachers. Some students even choose to take credit recovery classes to either gain lost credits or to make room for other classes in their busy high school schedules.

Different students enjoy different ways of learning so they aren't just sitting in a classroom all day. By going to the Career Center they are able to experience something out of the ordinary. Students go to the Career Center for cosmetology, dental hygienistry, automotive work, welding, culinary arts, nursing, and many other things. The Career Center offers different types of programs depending on personal interest, and it helps students prepare for jobs once they get out of high school and college. "I feel that Career Center is opening goals for me, and now I feel that I could go somewhere in life, which I don't feel in regular school sometimes," said junior Jeremy Lukmann. "I'm in construction class," he added.

Students who choose to attend local colleges for dual credit courses take part of the school day to earn high school and college credits. This is a great way for these students to get an early start on their prerequisites.

Those who choose to go to the elementary schools are able to learn from the teachers that are there. They are able to observe how they teach and what they should do while in a classroom. "I help the teacher grade papers, and I read to the class," said senior Brooke Studniarz. Cadet teaching is a great way to prepare for future jobs in the field of academics.

Overall, alternative learning is an excellent way to challenge students and allow them to do things they wouldn't normally be able to do. Having the ability to participate in these different forms of learning is quite a privilege, and many of the students at Griffith High School choose to take advantage of such a thing. Students are given insight on what life is going to be like once they are out in the world.



Annie Higginbotham

### brit3 lit3s

At the Career Center, senior Adam Wierkowski works on a welding project. "I like apples and welding," said Wierkowski. He also added, "My favorite part about welding is the welding technique 'FBBNR'."

### ooo... ahhh

Watching intently during a presentation in his ceramics class, senior Jordan Redar is taking everything in. "I couldn't look away from Bob 'the man, the myth, the legend,'" he said.



## r u kidding me?

The freshmen English students and the thespians went on a field trip to The Chicago Shakespearean Theatre to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream." "The play was really funny, and it was so cool to be right next to the actors. We had really good seats," said freshman Brooke Brinkley.



Caroline Ferrara

Field trips: education on the run



## Field trips: edu on the run!

It's a Tuesday. Friday is pretty far off, and there are four full more days of school left until the weekend comes. You don't want to go to school, but you don't really want to "ditch" either. Field trips are the perfect way to make a week go by faster and easier. Sometimes they're exciting, and sometimes they're boring, but either way you don't have to spend your day cooped up in a classroom. It's a breath of fresh air.

Some classes opt to get up early and travel by school bus for hours, and others just stay local. Most teachers try to incorporate some kind of learning experience into the field trip, but some just go to have fun and reward their students for good behavior.

Most students anticipate the social aspect: a whole day outside of school with your friends, no class, no cafeteria food, no homework. "Sometimes I end up missing a big test or a homework assignment, so that's good," said senior Kenny Companik.

The rare few value the learning experience field trips bring. "I pay attention more when I'm actually doing something, so I learn more," said senior Evan Lavolette.

A lot of students choose to meet up with friends before the trip. "A couple of my friends and I decided to go out to breakfast before we left. It's sweet to not have to worry about any tests or homework due or anything. It makes walking up in the morning easier. Plus, the food is usually better than whatever the school has for lunch," said junior Jason Villapando.

French classes went on a field trip in the spring to go see the play *Barbara DeSeville*. This year's students were upset that last year's french kids got to go on a field trip and they didn't, so Madame Hageman made sure that this year, there would be a trip for them to go on.

The biggest and most talked about trip of the year was chorale's trip to the Bahamas. The choir members held fundraisers to cut the cost of the trip, selling candy, ads, and hosting the annual pancake breakfast. Once there, they went on a cruise and performed for a judge in a small competition against one other school. The whole group went to Miami Beach, and some chose to go parasailing and swim with stingrays. The students stayed on a cruise ship, the Majesty of the Seas.

No matter where the class decides to go, it's a near guarantee that most students prefer it to school.





photo provided

#### waitin 4 the play 2 start...

"The play was good, but I only understood half of it. I just really liked walking around the campus at Valparaiso University," said junior Trisha Keown. Keown attended the play *Barbara De-Seville*, which was entirely in French.

#### chillin in da lobby w/ muh frenz

Seniors Michael Moses, Jamie Hernandez, Kevin Konopasek and Lindsay Brandner sit in the lobby of their Bahamas cruise ship, the Majesty of the Seas. "It wasn't the first cruise I had ever been on, and the ship was really nice," said Moses.



Karen Dreyer

#### that dog iz so cute-3!

On the February 3rd FCCLA field trip to the Munster animal shelter, junior Stephanie Shively pets a dog. "My favorite part was probably just being able to interact with the animals."

#### u goin ice sk8ng?

P.E. classes went on a trip to go ice-skating at Deep River Water Park on February 2nd. "I fell down a lot, but everyone else did too," said freshman Sarah Guistolsi.



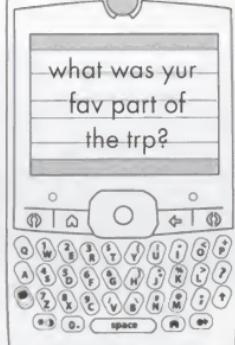
photo provided



the Bahamas

"My favorite part of the trip was the bonds I made with everyone. I loved them before but now we're like a family."

-Aimee Johnson,  
12



what was yur  
fav part of  
the trp?



the Field Museum

"My favorite part was going to Ed Debevic's and smashing with my friends."

-Jason Villalpando,  
11



photo provided



# Rxshuns, xperiments, n xplosions

Reactions, experiments, and explosions

**G**oing to school five days a week and learning new information hour after hour can be tough on students. Sometimes, teachers assign projects to reinforce what they've been teaching so that students can get a better grasp on the material.

The best example of this would be the labs every science class has to do. Students are taken out of the typical classroom environment and have to put what they have learned to the test; whether it is by means of dissecting animals in biology or doing chemical reactions in chemistry.

"Students like labs, and experiments help them learn the concepts. We choose labs by what we are learning and what we think is interesting," said Jane Villaroman, science.

"My favorite lab was the buffer lab because of all the different chemical changes and all of the colors," said freshman Melissa Miller.

Labs can be both entertaining and frustrating. If things don't go correctly, you have to redo the procedure, or if you don't catch it, the mistake could affect the rest of the lab and the post-lab conclusions.

"Labs enrich the lesson through hands-on activities. We correspond the lab to the content, and they're usually something someone has already done and we read about. We're copycatters," said biology and life science teacher Julie Wencloff.

Doing labs can also be dangerous. There are sometimes poisonous chemicals, as well as dangerous and fragile equipment.

"I remember that during my freshman year I broke a test tube and was afraid I would get yelled at so I picked it up and didn't tell anyone until now," said junior Brian Brilmyer.

For the most part, though, labs are supposed to be enjoyable and educational and as long as there are science classes, there will no doubt be lab activities.



## don't let it xplode

"My favorite Chem II lab was the satin lab. I like labs because they're better than work," said junior Robbie Welch while working with his hands on a Chemistry II lab.

## bubblin w/ curiosity

"I like it [physics] because Mrs. K.V. is a good teacher," said senior Heidi Pierson while participating in a physics lab.



Kara Cragg/0

## fr3sh air, fr3sh id3as

Participating in the outdoor lab, juniors Eddie Boncela and Matt Corlett tally information. Students got to work with their hands and get out of the typical classroom environment.





Erica Edwards



Annie Higginbottom



Annie Higginbottom

## What lab this year was your least favorite?

"In Ms. Wencloff's Biology class, my least favorite lab was the blood lab because it looked and smelled gross."

-Michelle Lesniewski, 9



"My least favorite lab for Chem II Enriched was the unknown lab because it's hard and takes a long time."

-Mark Butkus, 12



Erica Edwards

### st3amin succ3ss

"I don't like the unknown labs because they take a long time," said senior Katie Miller. Many students like labs because it gives them a break from sitting in a desk all day.

### Explodin w/ Enthusiasm

Many students like labs because they get to use chemicals. "I like hanging out with my friends and messing with chemicals during labs," said senior Kyle Lidster.

## Balancing everything



Even though senior Cory Jung is involved in many activities, she finds a way to manage them all. "The best tip I have for managing time is keeping a detailed schedule. I write down all of my meeting times and dates in my planner," said Jung.

drama @ 5

internship @ 7

band @ 4:30

student council @ 3:30

swimming @ 6

choir @ 5:30

class council @ 3

honor society @ 4



Cory Jung, 12



Ali Pietrucha

### Hanging w/ friends

Having some free time, sophomore Lindsey Sopetti goes out to eat with her friends at Panda Express. "Homework and sports take up a lot of time, but I get to see my friends in between and they understand I'm busy," said Sopetti.

### Hmwk b4 pr@c.

To keep up with homework, sophomore Regina Hope works on some of it at practice. "It's hard to keep up with homework. I have volleyball year round, so I try to work on it when we have some time before practice starts," said Hope.





Ali Pietrucha



Kaylyn Merrell

### wOrkIn @ Subw@y

Having a job can be difficult while in school. Junior Katie Drechny works at Subway. "I love working at Subway, but if I work too much sometimes I'll fall behind with school," said Drechny.

### m@k1n t1m3 4 h3r b0yfr1end

Between school and other activities, Junior Lauren Hansen still finds time to maintain a relationship. "It's easy to juggle sports, school, and my relationship with [junior] John [Evanich] because he's involved in sports too, so he understands," said Hansen.

### N@ppIn durInG cl@sS

Going to school seven hours a day can take a toll on some students. But for others, they just take naps to pass time. Senior Evan Lavoie said, "I didn't have a good book to read so I just decided to take a nap."



Annie Higginbotham

Try 1n t0 f1nd tim3

Trying to find time



One hundred and eighty-one days out of the year students are busy attending school for seven hours of the day. That's six thousand three hundred hours per year. This doesn't even include the amount of time spent on homework, sports, or other after-school activities. Trying to balance everything can be stressful for students. "It gets stressful, but I just prioritize to keep up with everything," said junior Jessica Breclaw.

Sometimes students will find ways to keep track of what they need to do to keep up with all their activities and homework. The student handbook comes in handy when students want to write down their assignments. Junior Veronica Smith said, "I usually write down all my homework and things I need to remember in my planner so I don't forget the homework I had for that day, or things that I have to do." Writing things down or making little reminders help students balance everything they need to do.

A lot of students at GH5 are involved in sports or after school activities, and some have learned how to manage being in a sport and school. "I'm used to keeping up with sports and school because I've been in them my whole life, so it's easier for me to balance everything," said sophomore Samantha Marker.

For some students the hardest part about balancing everything is making time for a relationship. After school activities, sports, and homework limit the amount of free time you have. Sometimes students may not get to spend as much time as they would like with their friends or significant other, but finding friends or significant others who understand makes it easier. Senior Jeff Melton said, "It's not easy, but just pray to God that you get really lucky and find someone who understands that you are busy and that you don't have a lot of time to spend with them."

Although trying to keep up with everything does get stressful, a lot of students don't care because they like staying active and being involved in sports and after school activities. "Even though trying to manage everything does get stressful sometimes, I wouldn't have it any other way because I like keeping myself busy," said junior Ashley Darrough. Keeping themselves busy and being involved is what some students will do even if it causes stress.



# Proj3ct du3: 2D@Y!!

Project due: today!!!

**W**hen you think of a project you most likely let out a long "ughhhh" because they're time consuming, and when it comes to the day it's due it is often when you actually do the project. Although they can be a hassle to high school students, they can also be entertaining and a great learning experience.

"In science class we did a project on different issues we had to find on the computer and then tell a little bit about them. I dreaded it, but I ended up learning a lot about topics like endangered animals and the ozone layer that I didn't know before," said junior Kelsey Hitt.

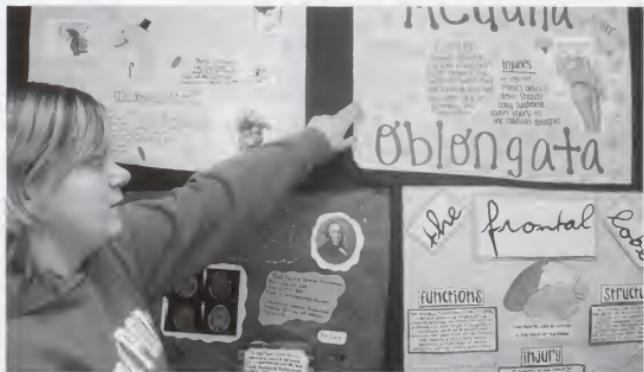
There are an infinite amount of different projects. Here at Griffith High School they can range from a cell poster in Biology I, an ofrenda from Spanish III, and something as complex as making a child's story book in French III.

For some, it's neither entertaining nor a great learning experience, it's just time consuming. From school, practice, and a job, a project is just a burden. "I go straight from school to basketball practice and after basketball I do my homework and study for any tests I have. It's even more stressful when I have a project to do and then find time for myself," said Junior Stephanie Negrete.

In high school, you're always going to have plans for the weekend: time with friends, the Friday night football game, the school dance, or even a family member's birthday party. So when it's Friday and you just can't wait for the school day to end and your teacher assigns that project for the weekend, it's not because they secretly hate you, it's for a good cause. "I barely assign projects, but when I do they're usually easy and the kids have a good time doing them," said James Ford, Spanish.

Although it does seem like it now, high school is actually extremely easy. The projects students get assigned now are incapable of being compared to those assigned in college. All the power point presentations and research papers our teachers give their students is only a preparation for what is to come. All this just shows that projects are always going to be a big part of everyone's lives. They force people to be organized, have superior time management skills, and creativity. Many people who have finished with their schooling would most likely agree that projects indeed better people in the long run.

So next time one of your teachers announces that a ten page research paper is due the following week, give them a great big smile and say thanks!



## time 2 rock

In Delicia Smith's information technology advanced class the students had to give a "how-to" for their final. "I did my "how-to" on playing the guitar because I want to express myself musically," said junior Anthony Marker.

## wOrkin' h@rd

Ready to present her project to the class is junior Caitlin McCabe. "The project we did in Jenna Berz's psychology class was about the different parts of the brain and it was so easy," said McCabe.



Amanda Zaborowski



sp3ak ^

Giving an oral speech to the class while dressed up for spirit week is junior Kim Swender. "I was giving my speech of independence for English class," said Swender.



Amanda Lacobowski

h@nds on wOrk

To prove his creative side in Ceramics II, senior Ryan Kalis molds his work to perfection. "I was just opening up some clay to make my awesome project," said Kalis.

m@kin' a m@sterpiece

"The best thing about projects is they're easy points and I always learn something new," said junior Na'Asia Flemming while working on her journalism project in the hallway.

## What was your favorite project?



"I really liked the photo album of my life I did in psychology."

-Kier Brinkley, 11

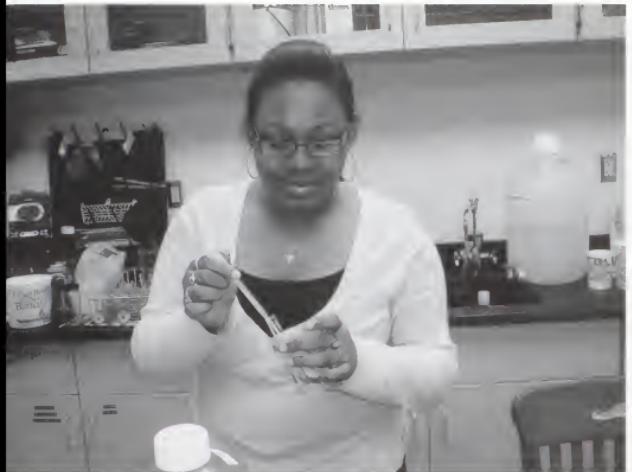
"When I do my final for newspaper or put my stories together for my portfolio."

-Jeremy Starks, 10



"Making Mexican food for community connections in Spanish class."

-Hope Ryan, 9



Aurie Higginbotham

**settn ^**

As an aide for Ruth Carmichael, science junior Michaela Ezell never has any free time. "I do everything, set up labs, measure things, science stuff," said Ezell. "I think of it as a real class, even though I don't have homework to do I still have to work hard."

**sew aw3sum**

To fit the garment properly, senior Catherine Kus works on junior Kiara Gragido's turnaround dress. The dress took Kus nine days to complete. "I wish I could have fixed the skirt, I wasn't happy with the way it layed," explained Kus.



## Match em ^...

- A. Andee Mullens
- B. Kenny Companik
- C. Alex Little
- D. Ashley Davis
- E. Meghan Macak
- F. Brittany Medley
- G. Bailey Curtis
- H. Savannah Mendoza
- I. Natisha Wlodarczyk
- J. Lindsay Meece
- K. Kristen Gulley

...who aides 4 whom?

**Answers**

1) G 2) B 3) D, F 4) E 5) C, I 6) J, K 7) A, H



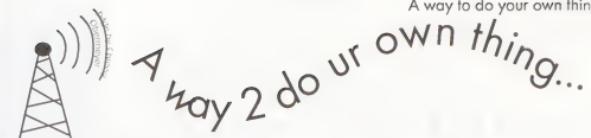
**k33pn it cl3an**

Rinsing out used test tubes is just one of senior Ashley Ames's many jobs as an aide for Ruth Carmichael, science. Ames explains that she likes being an aide because, "I get to help people out."

Aurie Higginbotham



A way to do your own thing



For some students, being an aide for a teacher, or one of the offices, is like having an extra break in the day: run a few errands, grab the mail, maybe grade tests from the day before, and then the rest of the hour is free to you. But if you are an aide for a busy teacher, that "break" can be a little more demanding. Other students prefer to have a whole hour to learn and do what they want, in an independent research class, or IR.

Science aides have to do almost everything, from setting up experiments to cleaning used equipment, and even cleaning transparencies. Office aides usually run from class to class handing out passes or other miscellaneous items. Most teacher aides help out by grabbing the mail, making copies of worksheets, filling in answer keys, grading quizzes and tests, and even filing papers away. Many students who are aides try to aide for their favorite teachers, and when many students want to aide for one teacher, there can be quite a bit of competition. Some students who want to aide for their favorite teacher will ask that teacher and secure their spot as aide months before scheduling for the next year even begins.

For those students who would rather learn independently than run errands for a teacher, there are IR classes. There are many different options for students who have an IR, you can even propose your own idea for one. A small group of students use their IR class to create our school's magazine, The Edge. For serious seamstresses and tailors, after taking all of the sewing classes offered here at GH5, you can take an additional sewing class as your IR. "I usually make shirts and tops, I might make more dresses soon," said senior Alison McCampbell, who uses her IR to create outfits and wardrobes.

With hectic days and homework-filled nights, sometimes having only a lunch break just does not help ease the stress of upcoming the Macbeth test and that nearly impossible pre-calculus homework due tomorrow. With an aide hour, you can relax for a moment or two, and in an IR class you don't have to deal with the stress of answering questions in front of twenty other students. If only one day we could have an extra break in the form of recess.

Morgan Homiczach



Debbie Pfeifer

#### goin 4 th3 gold

"I have been playing for three years, and I practice everyday for about two hours," said junior Eric Sanders. Sanders uses his Independent Research class to rehearse his drum solo for his performance at the ISSMA competition.



Arline Negg/Northeastern

#### usin sum t3chnology

With a look of concentration on his face, senior Kevin Konopasek works with senior Jeff Melton in their IR class. During their IR hour, the boys edit songs and synch voices in Eddie Covarrubias's class.

**zzzzzzzzzzzz.....**

"I was dreaming of Ms Davis and I on the beach together. That's why I am smiling," said senior Mark Blount. Blount, third in his class, sometimes slacked off but according to him, "you win some and you lose some."

## Future Plans Of The Top Ten

### Melissa Pilipow - Valedictorian

"I have received the Chancellor's Scholarship from Purdue Calumet, where I plan on attending in the fall for nursing. My goal for the future is to live my life to the fullest."

### Ashleigh Johnson - Salutatorian

"I plan on attending University of Chicago, because it offers a program in astrophysics, and its located close to home. I'd like to work at an astronomy research facility in the future."

### Mark Blount

"I am either going to Purdue Lafayette or Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I want to major in engineering and then later find a job, get rich and have a pretty wife."

### Larry Matovina

"I am deciding between colleges to major in creative writing and minor in television. My goal is to be a writer for television and create a cartoon comedy."

### Erica Kudyba

"After graduation, I plan on going to Ball State to study architecture. I really enjoy looking at different house layouts. After college I plan on living in Chicago."

### Annie Higginbotham

"I plan to attend Purdue Lafayette and major in biology and animal sciences, so I can become a veterinarian and own many animals."

### Robin Sophia

"In the summer I will have a summer job and will attend Hofstra in New York or Ball State in the fall. I want to major in journalism because I love writing and interviewing."

### Kevin Konopasek

"After graduation I am relaxing then attending Purdue University, West Lafayette in the fall. I really love the size, location, and it has everything I need academically."

### Cory Jung

"I plan to relax in the summer and then attend IU Bloomington in the fall. IU has a lot of different areas to study, which is great since I'm undecided in my major."

### Catherine Kus

"I am going to Valparaiso University and plan to major in international relations and enter their foreign studies program. After college I want to travel the world."





Annie Higginbotham



# Makin da list

Making the list

During high school there can be many lists. A list of books to read, homework you have, and things to do. Rushing around and finishing a list for a busy teenager can be rough. Although there can be many things to accomplish, there is one more list in the back of many high school students minds, the top ten list. This list academically ranks the top ten students in the senior class.

With 198 students in this year's graduating class, being on top is a far climb they had to endure. "It was hard to get good grades all four years because it is based off your accumulative G.P.A," said senior Annie Higginbotham, ranked sixth in the class. "I definitely pushed myself more than anyone else has because I made the goal for myself to be in top ten my freshman year and was determined to make it."

There is a lot of competition to get to the top ten. Failing one test could kick you out of the ranks. Studying is crucial and receiving A's on quizzes and homework make a big difference. As a reward for being in the top ten each student is allowed to select a teacher and go out to dinner. "I'm taking my old teacher, Mr. V, from St. Mary, because he was one of my biggest influences during junior high," said senior Larry Matovina. "He is the one teacher who got me through the day; he is like no other and a phenomenal teacher."

Many may think that being in the top ten is nerdy or not very sociable. This does not describe any of the top ten students this year. Yes, they do study and get A's, but many of them are in a sport, have many friends, or have a little class clown in them. "I have all of the top ten students in my A.P. Calculus and it is a joyous class to have. There is never a dull moment," said Christine Chidichimo, math. Looks like intelligence comes with a funny bone as well.

Being the valedictorian can be an even bigger accomplishment than just being in the top ten. At the graduation ceremony the top ten students wear cords when walking out but the valedictorian has the nerve racking task of giving a speech. "I think it's great that I get to make a speech, but I'm not excited at all for it," said valedictorian Melissa Pilipow. "I hate public speaking!"

Completing a list in high school is time consuming when the students have no time left, but competing for a spot on the top ten list is a list you should make time for. The top ten list is an honor and a goal well worth aspiring to. No, the perks that come with it are not the greatest, but, the way you feel is well worth it!



Anne Higginbotham

## N physics keepin up

Sitting attentively in her sixth hour physics class, senior Erica Kudyba's hand moves fast to get all her notes. "I take notes because it is easier to find things in what I write than in my book," said Kudyba.

## Eatin her way 2 da top

With food in her hand, senior and valedictorian Melissa Pilipow eats another lunch. "I buy extra food just to take to class in case I get bored," said Pilipow. Although some teachers don't care if you eat in their class some may give you a strange look.



Chassie Bogart

## @ da Obama Rally n Wicker Park

Sporting an Obama tee, senior Cory Jung participates at a memorable and historic event. It was an exciting time to be at Wicker Park. "I was an intern for the campaign, so I was able to get VIP tickets," said Jung.



#### rdy 2 go after a t.o.

After the halftime, the team talks about what to do to keep going. "We say stuff to get us jacked and ready to play 40 more minutes of soccer," said Junior Jackson Buzea.

#### wrm'd up b4 they run

To avoid getting hurt while running, Juniors Anne Scheffel and Natalie Drach stretch before and after they run. "Stretching is so important before and after because if you don't do it and run you could really hurt yourself," said Scheffel.

#### n the air

Working on her spiking, senior Shelby Bollek sets up for the hit. "Spiking isn't really hard at all. The hard part is getting the ball to go where you want it to go," said Bollek.



Photo Provided



Caroline Herren

Do u want 2 come over?

-Emilee Trueblood, 9



136



-Greg Joyce, 12

Wat are u doing?

-Kimberly Russell, 11





Annie Higginbottom

#### w/ the game n mind

"You have to rely on your partner a lot for doubles because if you are having an off day, they have to be able to pick up what ever slack you can't handle," said senior Kevin Konopasek. He plays with another senior, Mark Miecznikowski. Konopasek has played tennis here at Griffith since his freshman year.

## PMPD▲ PUMPED//UP

**S**tudents at Griffith have assorted reasons to be pumped up for all the different sports available for students to participate in. There are 15 sports (...OMG) throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Students are pumped to join sports for a number of reasons.

"I joined swimming to get in shape and to try something new," said senior Cory Jung.

"I joined soccer because I like having a reason to knock people down (...LOL) and to run around," said freshman Cristina Aldape.

"I joined football because I enjoy hitting people and it's extremely fun," said sophomore Zack Pirtle.

Sometimes sports turn out to be different or a greater commitment than expected, but most Griffith athletes work all year long.

"When I joined swimming, I thought it wouldn't be as challenging, but I love it now," said Jung.

"Girls' soccer was way better than I ever expected, (...=] )" said Aldape.

"Football wasn't at all what I thought it was going to be. I knew that Griffith has a good football program, but I didn't know it would be so intense," said Pirtle.

Whatever the reason, to get in shape, to meet new people, or to challenge yourself pick a sport and try it out. Sports motivate us. No matter what sport you pick, it can pump you up.

This class sucks!

-Rachel Mierzwa, 10



Dude Big B!! Step Brothers..

Dec. 2nd!!

- Nick Udritz, '12



# Panther Domination

page by Morgan Momciovich

**Preseason** This is an intense time for the football players. While some students are getting sun and laying out by the beach, the team is at practice or working out all day. They go from mini-camp, to two-a-days, to three-a-days. "It's a lot of work, but it all pays off in the end," said sophomore Calvin Bonewits.

**Traditions** Everyone seems to know all of the football team's traditions, whether it be going to Bridges every Thursday, having their usual pasta night, the traditional route, and the amount of pressure they get from the fans. "It's the best when we put bananas in between the mats on two-a-days," said junior Mick Biancardi. It seems like we don't know all the traditions that go on during the season.

**Best Game** The Panthers were ready to kill by the time they played the Hobart Bricks for the second time. The boys lost the first game they played against Hobart at the Bricky Bowl, but they did not let that happen at the boneyard on Halloween night. "It was the best game because the crowd was awesome and we were the underdog that came out on top," said sophomore Ed Johnson.

**Sectional Champs** While the football team had a rough start in the beginning of the year, they sure did push through. Losing three games in a row was rough. Little did they know there was nowhere to go but up. The Panthers became victorious after the three losses only losing one more game the rest of the season and finishing as sectional champs. "It was an exciting game and a great feeling to become sectional champs for the 4th year in a row," said senior Mark Blount.

**The Bone** Walking around school the football seniors carry the famous bone. The seniors receive the bone after beating their biggest rival (Hobart). "The bone is kept locked up in Coach Radtke's office," said senior Zack Butkus. After the boys walk around school with the bone they run out onto the field with the bone carried by one of the seniors. The bone has been around since 1978 and will be passed on for many years to come.

**Freshmen Recap** The freshmen team had a rough season this year; having a hard time winning with all the competition they played against. "Hopefully we'll do better next year because we'll become stronger and have more players on our side," said freshman Troy Yarnelle. The boys are ready to win next year and eager to move up on the totem pole.

## Griffith Varsity Football

### Overall

8-5

### Conference

2-3

### Morton

40-13 W

### Merrillville

15-24 L

### Hobart

0-19 L

### Lowell

12-27 L

### Kankakee Valley

41-14 W

### Munster

14-17 L

### Highland

43-0 W

### Andrean

41-7 W

### East Chicago

46-14 W

### Sectionals

### East Chicago

42-0 W

### Hobart

35-14 W

### Morton

21-7 W

### Regionals

### Lowell

13-19 L

### JV record

4-4

### Freshman record

1-8

## w/o hesitation

Getting into the middle, senior Mick Uddchitz jumps into the mix during the Griffith, Morton game. "I was making sure the quarterback didn't scramble," said Uddchitz. Morton had the ball and there was no way Griffith was going to let them score.



Annie Higginbotham

## eatin dirt

Making sure the Hobart player would not be able to get up, junior Cory Stidham tackled the Hobart player to the ground with senior Mark Blount close behind. "He had the ball so I wanted to make sure he wouldn't score with Blount behind me," said Stidham.

## pumped up n rdy 2 play

"I held up the bone to get the crowd pumped," said senior Greg Joyce. After half time during the Lowell regional game, quarterback Joyce was getting everyone fired up. The Panthers and the Red Devils were tied at this point in the game.



Annie Higginbotham

## waitin 4 the results

Before the game, the team holds hands for the coin toss to show that their all in it together and represent L.P.D. "I always hope defense wins the toss because I'm ready as ever to play," said sophomore Zachary Pirtle.





Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham

### snappin it 2 a win

In the middle of the field, junior Eddie Boncela played center at the first Hobart vs. Griffith game. Snapping the ball to our quarterback Greg Joyce would seem like a tough job, but not to Eddie. "I liked playing center this year, I felt like I was good at it," said Boncela.



### Varsity

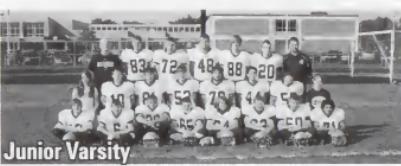
**Row 1:** Shewen Gelline, Zachary Pirtle, Art Garcia, Matt Butkus, Matt Beck, Nick Udehrizt, Logan Bocock, Ethan Adams, Jack Blount, Matt Blahn, Trevor Hitt, Will Hernendez

**Row 2:** Nick Gelline, Mike Tinich, Mike Gustafson, Steven Kepchar, Orlando Turner, Jeremy Dalton, John Morikis, Chris Piecinski, Jason Villalpando, Robby Szebo, Jason Short, Montene Kreslick, Branton Straub, Kevin Bynum

**Row 3:** Abby Zandt, Julie Camerer, Jen Todd, Tyler Radtke, Ted White, Chris Babbit, Jr., Bo Radtke, Russ Radtke, Alex Brenden, Jim Pickett, Christopher Laird, Melanie Scherings, Eric Arcella, Brian Orsak, Ashley Lanier

**Row 4:** Taylor Louie, Michael Berlow, Garrett White, Trevor Janks, Greg Joyce, Eric Bean, Cory Stidham, Barry Beltrusius, Jorge Castillo, Zack Butkus, Mark Blount, Austin Guzior, Jeff Molten, Tiffany Sanders

**Row 5:** Jordan Zandt, Maciej Szczepkowski, Mikas Zarawski, John Acevedo, Brandon Sey, Ryan Galher, Nick Blanchard, Brad Herlin, Kyle Smith, Eddie Boncela, Jeremiah Hardin, Calvin Benewitz, Donnell Roach, Mark Butkus, Ashley Davis



### Junior Varsity

**Row 1:** Jeremy Camp, Robert Szebo, Maciej Szczepkowski, Robert Mequier, Troy Yarnallie, Chris Babbit, Jr.

**Row 2:** Haley Marshall, Austin Foster, Cole Felde, Nick Stessin, Jonathon Morikis, Justin Herrera, Mark Neissman, Ashley Noojin

**Row 3:** Ryan Blahn, Billie Reitz, Shawn Gelline, Tyler Barron, Adam Corosano, Nicholas Brummet, Joshua Bedore, Hunter Fox



Rebecca Higginbotham

### throwin 4 a victory

During the regional Lowell game, senior Austin Guzior pushes an opponent out of the way. "I had to make the block so Joyce could run the play," said Guzior. The game was at crunch time and the Panthers needed the pass for the win.



Rebecca Higginbotham



## Freshmen

Row 1: Rachella Fogarty, Catane Root, Michelle Lesniawski, Melissa Miller, Tori Louviere, Megan Lesniawski

Row 2: Janni Rivera, Kelly Lennin, Cessie Holmes, Amelie Moreles, Vicki Solivais



## Junior Varsity

Row 1: Stecie Hansen, Rochelle Fogerty, Ketia Gilbert, Katie Ranck, Stephanie Brandner, Megen Tuttle

Row 2: Megan Gala, Michelle Sopetti, Jan Klapak, Kelsey Bonewits, Britney Sanders



## Varsity

Row 1: Kalynn Ruiz, Lindsay Brandner, Alyssa Van Horssen, Shalby Boilek, Sydney Reis

Row 2: Cathy Dilbeck, Samantha Marker, Amanda Zaborowski, Ali Pietrucha, Lindsey Sopetti, Regina Hope, Jeko Anderson



photo provided

### savin a serve

Diving, junior Sydney Reis saves a ball during a game. "I was bumping to save it. I really like the game in general, and just competing," Reis said.

### pep talk

Standing in a circle, varsity coach Cathy Dilbeck gives some encouraging words to the varsity team. "I love how much she cares about our team and how much she wants us to win," said sophomore Regina Hope.

### teamwrk ftw

Ready for a game, sophomore Samantha Marker bonds with fellow teammate Junior Kalynn Ruiz. Marker said, "Every home game our team put a new ribbon on our shoes. Also, we pray before every game."



photo provided



### **giving it the best**

Making a strenuous leap, junior Alyssa VanHorssen jumps to reach a ball during pre-game. Van Horssen said, "I love our team bonding. One day we played games that had to do with teamwork."



photo provided

### **spike the ball**

"The best part of volleyball is feeling like I belong with a team. Plus, I love the way it feels to get a kill," sophomore Lindsey Sopetti said. She was one of the only three sophomores on the varsity team.

photo provided



photo provided

### **crushing 2 heights**

Blocking the ball from the other team, senior Shelby Boilek successfully jumps. "Volleyball is fun to play. I like how it's a team sport and you can't just rely on one person to save everyone," said Boilek.

photo provided

## **Griffith Varsity Volleyball**

### **Conference**

**4-8**

### **Overall**

**17-12**

**Merrillville 3-2 W**

**East Chicago 3-0 W**

**Hammond 3-0 W**

**Munster 0-3 L**

**Andrean 0-3 L**

**Hobart 3-2 W**

**Washington Township 2-3 L**

**Morton 3-2 W**

**Morton 2-0 W**

**Merrillville 0-2 L**

**North Judson 1-2 L**

**Hebron 2-0 W**

**Highland 2-3 L**

**KV 3-0 W**

**Lowell 1-3 L**

**Whiting 2-0 W**

**Calumet 2-0 W**

**Gavit 2-0 W**

**Morton 2-1 W**

**Munster 0-3 L**

**Andrean 1-3 L**

**Gavit 3-0 W**

**Hobart 3-0 W**

**Calumet 3-1 W**

**Highland 1-3 L**

**KV 3-2 W**

**Lowell 1-3 L**

**Bishop Noll 3-2 W**

### **Sectionals**

**KV 1-3 L**

### **JV record**

**9-11**

### **Freshman**

### **record**

**21-10**

# **Up Above The Rest**

page by Elizabeth Biancardi

**Highlight** The volleyball season went fairly well, with many highlights. "I really liked conditioning. One time, [freshman] Stephanie Brandner tripped over [freshman] Amelia Morale. Another time, our coach told us to 'Lollipop that sucker over,' which made everyone laugh," said freshman Rachelle Fogarty.

"I liked seeing our varsity team win in their own tournament, and seeing all three teams defeat Morton," said sophomore Megan Gale, who is on Junior Varsity.

"I think the highlight was winning the Griffith tournament," said senior Lindsay Brandner, a member of the Varsity team.

**Team bonding** The freshman volleyball team didn't do much for team bonding. "We basically just hung out at each other's houses," freshman Kelly Lannin said.

Junior Varsity had a bit of a different routine. "We didn't take actual time for team bonding, but talking during downtime at practice, during bus rides, and in and out of school made us close," said sophomore Katie Gilbert.

Not surprisingly, the varsity team did the most team bonding. Brandner said, "We went to Notre Dame to watch a college volleyball game. We also spent an entire practice playing team building games."

**Practice** Grueling practice can only be the key to a good team. "Practice was tough, but fun," said Lannin. The freshman captain was Rachelle Fogarty.

The Junior Varsity's captains were Katie Gilbert and Michelle Sopetti. Gilbert said, "We practiced everyday that we didn't have games, and sometimes on Saturday morning. How intense the practice was depended on how you played the game before. Mondays were the most intense practices."

"Practice was torture. We ran and scrimmaged a lot, and we were penalized for our mistakes," Brandner said. The Varsity team had two captains: Lindsay Brandner and Shelby Boilek.

**Traditions & Superstitions** Essentially, every team has something they do to make sure they'll come out victorious. "We all went in the middle of the court and did a cheer," said Fogarty.

"[Freshman] Stephanie Brandner would always fix our coach's necklace before a game. Also, we always sat in the same seat on the bench for luck," said Gale.

The varsity had a tradition too. "We flailed before the game, then we prayed," said senior Lindsay Brandner.

**Best Part About Volleyball** There is always one thing that a player loves, otherwise they would not be on the team. "The best part is just playing. I like it so much," said Lannin.

"I like the game in general. It's really up-beat and fast paced," said Gilbert.

Gale said, "The best part was just being with friends and always having the opportunity to get better at volleyball."

# Champions

page by Samantha McInerny

**Traditions** Every team has traditions. The boys' soccer team has many of them. One team tradition is to run across the field and do the cool down. Also, the team lines up before each game and listen to the National Anthem. Some team members even have their own traditions. "I give Duvy [Zachary Duvnjak] a kiss before every game and after the game I wipe my sweat from my shin guards on Johnny [Kantor]," said senior Danny Torok.

"I put on my jersey right before the game starts," senior Zachary Duvnjak said. "While I'm walking on the field, Danny [Torok] and I do our handshake."

**Practice** The team had practice everyday with the exception of Sundays for two hours. The team worked very hard at each practice and it shows with their title of "Sectional Championship". Some members of the junior varsity worked extra hard and got moved up to play in varsity games. These members include freshmen Ryan Avalos, Justin Turner, Joey Vaclavik, Nick Kudyba, sophomores Matt Mercer, Josh Kisfalusi, and juniors Zach Kisfalusi, and Jake Long. "I worked really hard to get brought up to varsity," said Avalos.

**Junior Varsity** The junior varsity ended their season with four wins, four losses, and two ties. One of their greatest wins was against Wheeler. "The highlight of my season was when Zach [Kisfalusi] scored the winning goal against Wheeler," said freshman Ryan Avalos. Other team members had different highlights.

"My highlight was coming back to play after I had surgery," said sophomore Chris Melton, who had surgery on his knee.

**Sectionals and Regionals** The team made it all the way to regionals this year. They won sectionals, but lost the first game at regionals. "The best thing in sectionals was scoring a goal and having two assists off throw ins," senior Jeff Melton said. This is the first time in ten years that boys soccer has won sectionals.

"It was the best feeling ever," said junior Ryan Voges. In sectionals they played Hobart and Merrillville. They advanced to regionals and lost to Lake Central 5-1.

**Captains** This year the soccer team had two captains, junior Matt Plawecki and senior Zachary Duvnjak. "I like being a captain because it puts more pressure on you and makes you work harder," said Plawecki. This is Plawecki's second year as captain. "It's challenging trying to lead older guys and guys that are in your grade," added Plawecki.

This is Duvnjak's first year as a captain. "It was hard to keep the team in line, especially Bobo [Nicholas Bobowski] and Terp [Kyle Terpstra]," said Duvnjak.

## winning the ball

Junior Shawn Siokos, a forward, races for the ball against a Munster player. "My favorite thing about playing the forward position is I can score from there easily," said Siokos.



Annie Higginbotham



## dominating Munst3r

As he traps the ball, junior Nicholas Bobowski starts to advance it up the field. "The best part of the Munster game was guarding the best player on the team," said Bobowski.

## b4 the game

Right before the start of the games, the team lines up for the National Anthem. "Lining up has been a tradition for Griffith soccer for a very long time," said sophomore Josh Kisfalusi.



Annie Higginbotham

## prot3ct th3 n3t

During a direct kick, junior Matt Plawecki helps build a wall to protect the goal. "The greatest thing about this season was winning sectionals," said Plawecki.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham

## wrmin ^

Before each game, the boys' team stretches really well and passes in partners. "I don't need shin guards. I only wear them during the game," said junior Josh Chavez.



Varsity

Row 1: Ryan Avalos, Jackson Buzea, Joshua Kisfalusi, Danny Torok, Nick Gaydos, Shawn Siokos, Nick Kudya

Row 2: Justin Gasper, Jake Long, Nick Bobowski, Matt Plawecki, Zachary Duvnjak, Ryan Voges, John Kantor

Row 3: Karl Koch, Josh Chavez, Omar Quantanilla, Todd Basham, Ron Knestrick, Kyle Terpstra, Nikole Pupac, Jeff Melton, Wally Kudya



Junior Varsity

Row 1: Josh Ashenbaugh, Josh Kisfalusi, Justin Turner, Zachary Kisfalusi

Row 2: Justin Gasper, Joe Vaclevik, Jake Long, Ryan Avalos, Garret Walter

Row 3: Wally Kudya, Jim Gaydos, Zac Bozino, Todd Basham, Ryan Fisch, Chris Melton, Karl Koch



Annie Higginbotham

## stoppin th3 go@l

The starting goal keeper for the boys' varsity team is senior Danny Torok. "My favorite part of being the goalie is when you make a big stop, you feel like you've saved the game," said Torok.



## Varsity

**Row 1:** Stephanie Hobbs, Natalie Aguilera, Kellie Bubel, Megen Wilbert, Priscilla Sepulveda

**Row 2:** Anna Schell, Carissa Quintero, Katelyn Barta, Requel Mazur, Meghan Mecak, Andea Mullens

**Row 3:** Don Curtis, Kaitlyn Sudes, Erice Kudybe, Rachel Cooper, Brianna Bies, Shenlynn Bias, Semmi Holmes, Lauren Hansen, Rick Gonzalez



## Junior Varsity

**Row 1:** Samantha McInerney, Rachel Mierzwa, Lisa Kurpela, Shi Fessotto, Teresa Castellanos

**Row 2:** Alyssa Lenting, Alejandre Tellez, Ashley Noojin, Cassie Christenson, Christine Aldape, Taylor Steffen, Amanda Clark

**Row 3:** Don Curtis, Ashley Brown, Taylor Reitz, Laura Hurdish, Sarah Hurdish, Amy Russell, Kristen Pospychala, Kalle Lastagarkov, Rick Gonzalez

### A chanc3 @ th3 goal

Dribbling towards the goal is junior Rachel Cooper. "This season was my favorite season so far because of how well we did," said Cooper. "We made it to Sectional Finals, and that was a great accomplishment."

### nic3 h3ad3r

"We worked really hard this year and we went farther than any team in the past," said junior Lauren Hansen. Hansen, an offensive player, was a key component to the success of the varsity team's season.



Jake Long



Jake Long



Jake Long

### C13arin' the ball

Kicking the ball away from her opponents is freshman Kalle Lastagarkov. "My first year on the team was great because of how great the JV season was and how much we improved," said Lastagarkov.



### Goin' for the goal

The leading scorer of the team, sophomore Katelyn Barta tries to dribble around the last defender. "This season was a success due to a strong defense that lead to a strong offense," said Barta.

### Gettin' pr3par3d

With victory in mind, the girls prepare themselves for the games by having a talk within the team. "We had a lot of teamwork and that was a big key to our success this year," said freshman Briania Bias.

### playin D-fense

Chasing down the ball, junior Meghan Macak tries to defend the goal. "Our team didn't have weaknesses; our whole team had strengths to it and that lead to the success we had this season," said Macak.



### Pushin th3 ball forward

Trying to push the ball forward is junior Shanlynn Bias at the stopper position. "Our season went surprisingly well," said Bias. "We made our first sectional final and everyone was excited."

## Griffith Varsity Girl's Soccer Conference

3-2

Overall

11-5

Hammond

16-0 W

Hobart

2-1 L

Boone Grove

7-5 W

Andrean

2-1 W

Munster

3-0 L

KV

Forfeite W

Crown Point

3-2 L

Merrillville

7-2 W

Lowell

1-0 W

Gavit

8-1 W

Hebron

8-1 W

Chesterton

3-1 L

Wheeler

10-1 W

Highland

2-1 L

Andrean (sect)

1-0 W

Lowell (sect)

5-1 W

L.C. (sect)

3-1 L

JV

11-2-1

# Sectional Finalists

page by Jake Long

**Practice** "We knew how to get serious when we needed to, but we also had fun and great times at practice," said junior Kaitlyn Sudac. The girls' practices consist mostly of practicing offense vs. defense.

**Bonding** "Our team was really close," said junior Cariissa Quintero. "We did a lot of activities like TPing and going out to eat." These activities lead to a close bond between the girls.

**Strengths** The strength of the girls' team this year started with their defense. Having junior Shanlynn Bias at the top of the defense and junior Meghan Macak as the last defender was one of the biggest keys to the success that this season was.

**Key Players** This year many key players led to the success of the season. Most of the key players were defensive, but there were a few offensive. Junior Meghan Macak, the team's MVP, played mostly defense, but she also played up front when she needed to. Junior Lauren Hansen controlled the midfield, while senior Sammi Holmes led the attack with sophomore Katelyn Barta.

**Adjustments** About halfway through the season, junior Raquel Mazur was given a chance against Merrillville. Since she scored three goals, Mazur was given the starting job for the rest of the season.

**Sectionals** For the first time ever, the team had two wins in sectionals and advanced to their first sectional final. Even though they lost, the season was a success overall.

**JV** Finishing with a record of 11-2-2, the JV team had an extraordinary year with the highlight of the season coming on a 2-1 victory over Crown Point. "We bonded really well, and no one disliked anyone else on the team," said freshman Ashley Brown. "Our team played well this season and I hope we can do just as good next season."

# The Best Yet

page by Chrissy Obermeyer

**Practice, Hard** Warm-up, stretch, run, cool down, stretch. The boys' and girls' cross country teams both did especially well this year, thanks to intense practices. The practices were hot and tiring, but everyone of them kept going, even in the rain and cold, even when they had to run over nine miles, even when they had to run down 73rd Avenue in Merrillville, everyone kept pushing to get better times.

**Pasta Parties and Jacuzzis** For team bonding, everyone got together for a pasta party, where they ate pasta, of course, and desserts. Sometimes they played WII, other times the team would relax in a jacuzzi. They even went to watch the Chicago marathon as a team. "Even at practices we had team bonding. We all supported each other and bonded when we ran," explained senior Michael Moses.

**Better Than Before** Both past cross country teams were pretty "weak," but this year the teams excelled. With a big team this year, better runners, harder practices, and more support from teammates, more runners, like sophomore Jeffrey Tinich and freshman Ryan Zubrick, were able to get personal records of under twenty minutes.

**The Highs and Lows** While each team member has their own idea of the high point of the season, most agree that the team's lowest point was the beginning of the season. "When everyone first started was the low point. We had to work hard to get where we got," said junior Natalie Drach.

Other teammates think the girls team making regionals was one of the best moments. Tinich explained that "We are actually competition for other teams now."

**Rivalry and Winning** Without rivalry, meets would be boring, there would be no fierce competition, and there would be no irritating kid from another school chasing after you to keep you going. For the boys, that irritating kid would be chasing them in a Gavit uniform. Tinich explained that it's because, "We ran with them at every meet."

Moses added that, "We have very similar runners and our teams are so similar that the winner depended on who was mentally prepared rather than physically prepared." The girls' rivals include Highland and Hobart, because in meets they're usually close.

**From Sectionals to Semi-State** The boys were four points away from making it to regionals, but had one of the best seasons in quite some time. As for the girls, they went on to regionals for the first time in six years. Junior Chrissy Leslie qualified individually for semi-state, and placed 47 out of 157 girls. Moses explained, "I wouldn't change anything about the season. This season was the best in a long time. It was amazing."

## Boys Cross Country

### Conference

7th place

Overall

1-6

Lowell 15-50 L

Munster 16-47 L

Highland 15-47 L

Morton 21-34 W

Hobart 16-39 L

KV 17-38 L

Andrean 17-38 L



Caroline Herrera

## pac3 urs3lf

To keep others motivated even when they want to quit is an excellent quality to find in a team leader. "She's a great team captain and she always pushes us to do our best," junior Caitly Hayes said of fellow teammate, junior Chrissy Leslie. Leslie qualified for semi-state this year.

## warmin ^

Good runners go for warm-up runs before meets, like freshman Robyn Williams does here. When the team has to meet for practice, they meet at the baseball field and warm up and stretch there.

## Girls Cross Country

### Conference

7th place

Overall

1-6

Lowell 21-34 L

Munster 19-44 L

Highland 20-56 L

Morton 23-32 W

Hobart 26-29 L

KV 18-37 L

Andrean 25-33 L



Caroline Herrera



Row 1: Shannon Scheidel, Lindsay Meece, James Burch, Michael Moses, Michael Beck, Robyn Williams, Maggie Leslie

Row 2: Alexis Mata, Ryan Zubrick, Chrissy Leslie, Shae Siokos, Nathan Bailey, Anne Scheffel

Row 3: Jeffrey Trinch, Ariana Suarez, Gabriel Muro, Natalie Drach, Matthew Mercer, Sam Aguilar, Joel Kepchar

### t3am effrt

"I've done cross country at my other school, but this year was the best because of the motivation and sportsmanship this team has," revealed junior Courtney Hayes. Courtney's twin sister, junior Caity Hayes, also runs on the girls cross country team.

Caroline Herrera



### g00fin around 4 a lil bit

As a way to pay their dues, the freshmen are required to carry all of the team's equipment to and from the bus. Here a group of them hang out before a meet. "I think the team was more accepting of the new juniors than the freshmen," explained freshman Sam Aguilar.

### runnin FTW

Because Highland is such a big rival for the girls' team, freshman Kathleen Vilalpando runs hard to stay ahead of the blue and gold uniforms chasing after her. Gavit is a big rival of the boys' team.



Caroline Herrera

### takin th3 l3ad

With a good stride and determination on her face, junior Anne Scheffel leads as a pack of Highland runners attempt to catch up to her. "I dropped a lot of time off my PR from last year," said Scheffel.

### fun n gam3s

Playing the number game has become a GH5 favorite. Here seniors Michael Cummins and Michael Beck get into the game. Freshman Ryan Zubrick thinks Cummins is the funniest on the team. "He was always telling jokes and making us laugh," said Zubrick. Cummins was injured and could not run.



Caroline Herrera

### **Gettin a lesson from coach**

Coach Mike Werosz worked with each girl individually to help them improve their swing. "He helped me line up for a shot," said senior Michelle Plucinski, "He helps us a lot."



**Row 1:** Katie Leszniewski, Alexis Morikis, Kara Buchholz, Rachel Solar

**Row 2:** Michelle Plucinski, Stephanie Nowak, Mike Werosz, Sara Brouillette, Jessica Flutka

### **Goin 4 a hole n 1**

Before each game, the girls practiced. Senior Michelle Plucinski works on her put before a game. "I was analyzing my shot," said Plucinski. Sophomore Sara Brouillette watches in the background, while working on her own shot.

### **Puttin the ball!!**

Putting the ball at a practice, sophomore Alexis Morikis concentrates on her shot. "I was shooting for par," said Morikis. A par in golf is the number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course. Morikis was the only member to make it to regionals.



*photo provided*



*photo provided*



*photo provided*

### **Prac her swing**

"Practices got me ready for the game and improved my putting and driving," said freshman Rachel Solar. Being new to the golf team, Solar worked on her swing as often as possible.



photo provided



photo provided

#### Friends 4 Eva

"I like how everyone got along even when we were playing another school," said senior Katie Lesniewski. Just like many of the other girls, Lesniewski likes to get as much practice in as possible.

# Hunting for Birdies

page by Chrissy Colgrove

**Highlight** The highlight of a season is otherwise defined as the one moment you can't seem to shy away from, like when you hit the ball so hard there is no chance of return, or in golf's case, a hole in one. Although the golf team didn't have any Tiger Woods moments, they had their share of victories. "The highlight for me was when we won our first game," said sophomore Alexis Morikis.

The other girls seemed to agree that this was a highlight. However, sophomore Sara Broulette said, "For me, it was getting to meet new girls, having fun on the bus rides, and practice."

"For me, it was Alexis going to regionals," said senior Katie Lesniewski.

## Griffith Varsity Girls Golf

### Conference

0-6

### Overall

1-8

### Munster

180-285 L

### Lowell

189-285 L

### Kankakee Valley

217-255 L

### Hobart

200-255 L

### Andrean

242-265 L

### Lake Central

186-265 L

### Highland

203-255 L

### Hammond Clark

240-286 W

**Team bonding** Just like any other team, the girls' golf team did whatever they could to keep connected with one another. They hung out and bonded, learning to love the good and bad in each other along the way. "We went to Cheila's on Wednesday nights," said senior Katie Lesniewski.

"We were really close," added sophomore Alexis Morikis.

**Rivalry** Flip on the TV to watch any good sports movie and you'll see one thing, a rival. Go to a Griffith golf match, and you to will get the same effect. Many of the girls agreed that their rival was Hobart. However, sophomore Sara Broulette said, "I would think our rival would be Lake Central because they are very competitive."

**Pre-Game Rituals** From pre-game chants to praying, every team has their own way of clearing their heads and getting pumped for a game. Giggling, Alexis Morikis said, "We turned on the radio and called Kiss FM. We'd usually get in."

Aside from a fun phone call, some of the girls had their own way of focusing. "I always listened to music on the way to games," said freshman Rachel Solar.

**Regionals** Sophomore Alexis Morikis was the only member of the golf team to make it to regionals. "It went well. I shot around what I did for Sectionals, but it wasn't enough to go to state."

Senior Michelle Plucinski said, "I only missed regionals by a few strokes." Either way, the team can only hope to have players qualify for regionals again next year.

**Practices** Waking up early can be a drag. However, the golf team did it with pride. "In the summer, we would go to practice at Sherwood at six o'clock in the morning for an hour. After school we would meet on the bus and go to practice," said sophomore Sara Broulette. The team would usually play five holes or go to the driving range, a facility made specifically for players to practice their swings.

However, it wasn't all blood, sweat, and tears. The team also enjoyed themselves at these practices. "We had fun," said senior Michelle Plucinski.

# Serving Up Success

page by Jillian Dixon

**Memorable Moments** The tennis team had many memorable moments throughout the season. Whether it was chants or being able to start, all of the players had at least one memory that stands out to them. "My most memorable moments were getting to start varsity as a freshman, playing a doubles match with my brother [Travis], and watching Chris Bartley go through a fence at practice," said freshman Garret Litke.

**Practice** Practices were like any other teams' practices: long, tiring, and hot. They started in the summer and lasted until the end of the season. "Practices were fun and challenging at the same time! The easiest practices were when we just got to hang out and play matches against each other. The hardest practices came when Miss Sines made us run," said senior Chris Bartley.

"Practices were easy and laid back; they were each usually about two and a half hours long," said freshman Ed Fitzgerald.

**Goals and Awards** Some of the players set individual and team goals at the beginning of the season. Players who showed a great amount of talent were awarded at the end of the season. Seniors Kevin Konopasek and Travis Litke enjoyed their last years of tennis at GHHS with a good ending. "One of my individual accomplishments was for me and my partner Mez [Mark Miecznikowski] to be nominated for all-conference and all-area," said Konopasek.

"One of my goals was to have a memorable, fun last year of tennis. Also, at the end of the season, I got the NCC all-academic team award which was really cool," said senior Travis Litke.

**Expectations** Many of the team members had high expectations for the 2008 tennis season. Some players wanted to be .500 for the regular season and in conference. Other expectations were to win sectionals. "We definitely had a winning season and I hoped for that," said junior Michael Lanfear.

"One thing we wanted as a team was to get the work done in the summer, to be better as a team during the season, and compete against some of the NCC powerhouses," said junior Matt Corlett.

**Traditions** The team had some traditions, but not as many as other sports have. Some players said that the sectional chant they did was their tradition, and others went to Burger King before every match. "As my own tradition, I would listen to music before every match because it helped me get pumped up and ready for the game," said sophomore James Steinhubel.

**Rivalry** Every sport has at least one rivalry team that they want to beat. Junior Justin Phillips did not like playing against Highland and Munster. "We were definitely rivals with Highland. We lost to them during the regular season and at sectionals. Some of our guys came extremely close to beating them, too. The most difficult team was by far Munster, being ranked top ten in the state," said Phillips.

## 0, 15, 30, 40

Discussing the scores of tennis, senior Mark Miecznikowski talks with freshman Ed Fitzgerald. "My favorite thing about tennis is getting to play around at practice and be with my friends," said Miecznikowski.

## Griffith Boys' Varsity Tennis

### Conference

2-4

### Overall

10-6



Amanda Zablowski

Wheeler 14 L

Portage 3-2 W

Calumet 4-1 W

Lake Station

5-0 W

Highland 0-5 L

Lowell 4-1 W

KV 5-0 W

Andrean 1-4 L

Morton 3-2 W

Munster 0-5 L

Bishop Noll 3-2 W

Hobart 1-4 L

Gavit 5-0 W

River Forest 5-0

W



Annie Figgis/Photo

### JV record

6-3

### backhand

Hitting the ball, senior Kyle Lidster works on his skills at practice. "The hardest thing about tennis is facing all the other towns, their number one players and this only being my second year," said Lidster.



#### **tlikin w/ coach**

Before each match, coach Tracy Sines discusses the "game plan." Junior Kyle Carter talks with the coach and his teammates. "I like getting to spend quality time with my friends and enjoy playing the game of tennis," said Carter.

#### **underhand**

As he stretches to smack the ball, senior Travis Litke concentrates on the game with his full attention. "I think the hardest thing about tennis is hitting the ball in between the lines," said Litke.



Anne Higginbotham



Amanda Zaborowski

#### **^ high**

Before a match, juniors Brian Little and Kyle Carter give each other a high five. "Before every match we would have a sick breakdown led by Mr. Kevin Konopasek; we were the most intimidating team in the state because of it," said junior Brian Little.



Row 1: Brian Little, Garret Litke, Ed Fitzgerald

Row 2: Kevin Konopasek, Mark Miecznikowski, Justin Phillips, Travis Litke, Michael Lanfear

Row 3: Kyle Carter, Matthew Corlett, Tracy Sines, Kyle Lidster, James Steinhubel



## Varsity

Row 1: Amanda Stinnett, Lauren Hansen, Hannah Hack, Shanlynn Bias, Kellie

Bubala, Brooke Brinkley, Hope Ryan

Row 2: Sam Marker, Maggie Butkus, Ashley Parish, Stephanie Negrete,

Presley Corich



## Junior Varsity

Row 1: Jasmine Mata, Brianna Nelson, Emily Witvoet, Brooke Brinkley,

Melissa Miller, Hope Ryan

Row 2: Jada Harris, Brianna Bias, Kelsey Bonewits, Janessa Salinas, Hannah

Hack



photo provided

### sw33t vict0ry

Cutting down the net after an exciting sectional win, junior Shanlynn Bias said, "I was so relieved that we came out with an amazing win over Calumet. Words can't explain how proud I was of my teammates."

### st@ying f0cuse3d

"All summer I practiced my free-throws and almost everyday after practice I would stay to work on them and it paid off," said junior Lauren Hansen. Here, Hansen gets ready to shoot a free throw at an away game.



### Jump b@ll

To win the ball in the beginning of the game is very crucial. "I always think that I need a good jump to get the ball to my teammates," said sophomore Maggie Butkus.

### w@iting tO g3t in

Pumped-up and ready to go, Junior Stephanie Negrete waits for her cue to go in. "When I get ready to go in, I think about all the things I need to do to help the team," said Negrete.



Photo provided

Jane Young



photo provided

### t0g3th3r @s a t3@m

Holding hands for good luck during the national anthem, is a ritual the team has. "During the national anthem, I mentally prepare myself for the game," said sophomore Presley Corich.

Griffith  
Varsity  
Girl's  
Basketball

Conference

3-3

Overall

12-5

LC  
43-41 L  
River Forest  
52-34 W  
Hobart  
49-40 L  
Morton  
60-27 W  
Clark  
69-25 W  
Hebron  
54-31 W  
Rensselaer

46-30 W  
Whiting  
58-33 W  
Andrean  
47-38 W  
Munster  
45-44 L  
Wheeler  
38-26 W  
KV  
64-35 W  
Highland  
43-38 L  
Gavit  
46-35 W  
Lowell  
55-31 W  
Hammond High

45-42 L  
Calumet  
48-28 W

JV record  
15-4

# In it to win it

page by Kaitlyn Sudac

**Traditions** Every year the girls team have a few traditions that help them bond and stay close. They had pasta nights, which were held the day before important games, TPed their coaches' house for sectionals, and this year as the boys won sectional championship, the girls were there to support and superfan them. By staying close, it helped them get along and play together as a team.

**Pre-game rituals** The day of games were both nerve-wrecking and exciting, but some girls believed in pre-game rituals that would bring an outcome of victory. The girls would paint their fingernails the colors of the team they were going against the day before a big game, some girls wouldn't wash their home jerseys, and they even sat in the same seats every game.

**Newcomers** With a new season, there was a loss of a few seniors from last year, but the team gained more freshman than they expected. They didn't get along with each other at first, but once they had a sleepover, they became the close team they are now. "At first, I was nervous but we did a lot of team bonding and now I'm happy to be apart of the team," said freshman Melissa Miller.

**Practices** The girls ended their season with a record of 12-5 and a sectional title, but all of that took hard work and dedication. They would practice six days a week for three hours a day and would occasionally goof off and have a good time. When it came to game day, they knew they had to take it seriously.

**Captains** Almost every team consists of captains to lead and be responsible. This season there were four captains: juniors Lauren Hansen, Shanlynn Bias, Stephanie Negrete, and senior Amanda Stinnett, who led the team to a great record and season. "As a captain and point guard, if I make a mistake it's my job to not look down or get mad at myself. I have to keep my head up and set an example for the team," said junior Lauren Hansen.

**Sectional champs** Facing off against Calumet for the sectional title was something the girls knew they had to work hard for. They ran their practices with intensity and came into the game with the attitude that they could do it. "I was excited to win and being a freshman it was a great experience," said freshman Hope Ryan.

**Final farewell** As the season came to an end, the seniors, Kellie Bubala and Amanda Stinnett, had to say goodbye to their teammates and coaches. "If I had to give any type of advice to underclassmen, it would be that they should enjoy the four years they play, because when it's over you'll want it back," said Bubala.



## Varsity

Row 1: Stephenie Brandner, Tyrell Tinnin, Nick Trauscht, Greg Joyce, Nick Bobowski, Jackson Buzee, Amande Bakko  
Row 2: Jeff McClanahan, Peter Sepulveda, Calvin Bonewits, Brian Brilmeyer, Kyle Terpstra, Jacob Evanich, Justin Fronek



## Junior Varsity

Row 1: Alejandro Cordove, Kevin Graham, Richie Zarkiewski, Cody Hamilton, Garret Little  
Row 2: Avery Chandler, Danny Miller, Ryan Fisch, Craig Adelsperger, Jonathan Acevedo, Orlando Turner, James Steinhubel



## Freshmen

Row 1: Zach Muller, Anton Calvert, Robert Fleishmen, Josh Ashenbaugh  
Row 2: Joseph Narolewski, Andrew O'Brien, Troy Yarnelle, Jacob Schnoor, Austin Foster  
Row 3: James Botkin, Brandon Cole, Mike Megyesi, Robbie Szabo, Josh Chalifoux



Caroline Herrera

## huddle ^

Listening to the coach, the basketball team receives encouragement. "When we're in the huddles, Mr. Fronek tells us the game plan and it's encouraging," said junior Nick Bobowski.

## guard tht ball

As one of the starters, senior Greg Joyce is sad to be leaving. "I will miss all the Juniors yelling stuff at people on the street while we were going to summer league games," said Joyce.



Ali Pietruszka



Caroline Herrera

## dribble, shoot, score

Being a sophomore on a team of juniors and seniors isn't as easy as it looks. "The upperclassmen were hard on me because I'm young, but I enjoyed pasta night because we could all laugh together," said sophomore Tyrell Tinnin.

## block 'em, guard 'em

The basketball team played their rival when they got a visit from Munster. "Munster is definitely our rival because they are really good. The first quarter of our game started out good, but then we just lost it in the second half," said junior Peter Sepulveda.



Griffith  
Varsity  
Basketball

Conference

3-3

Overall

14-9

Whiting

58-15 W

Clark 58-56 W

Morton 61-57 W

Highland

58-47 W

Crown Point 61-

71 L

Hanover Central

73-62 W

Hobart 77-79 L

Gavit 55-62 L

Lowell 67-39 W

Andrean 47-60 L

Munster 35-64 L

Hammond

43-62 L

Calumet

72-38 W

Rensselaer

Central 63-44 W

Bishop Noll

67-53 W

KV 62-60 W

Lake Station 45-

34 W

Gary Roosevelt

35-62 L

Wheeler Turney

Hobart 63-65 L

Clark 64-40 W

Sectionals

Knox 60-59 W

Andrean

56-54 W

Regionals

Rochester

50-68 L

JV record

3-15

**jump ^ high**

Trying to beat Bishop Noll, junior Jacob Evanich makes a basket for two points. "I am really looking forward to next year so that we can win sectionals again and try to win regionals," said Evanich.



Ali Pietrucha

# Hoop it Up

page by Jillian Dixon and Samantha McInerny

**Sectionals** The basketball team were Sectional champions this year. This title had not been won since 1973. First, they went up against Knox and then advanced to play Andrean. To win sectionals, the boys stepped it up and practiced longer and harder before the sectional games. The sectional championship game against Andrean was very suspenseful. "We only won by two points at the very last second," said sophomore Calvin Bonewits.

**Regionals** The boys team has not made it to regionals in thirty-six years. This year they traveled to Plymouth to play the Rochester Zebras for the regional title. Although they gave it all their effort, they lost the game with a score of 68-50. "I was sad that the season was over, because I will never get to play with these people again," said senior Nick Trauscht.

**Practice** The basketball team practiced six days a week for about two to three hours. The practices before games were easier so that the team would not pull any muscles. However, they would make sure they were ready for the game. One change in practices was that the team went to Calumet and practiced there before sectionals. "We tried to give it our all at every practice," said junior Brian Brilmeyer.

**Team bonding** Team bonding can be very important to help bring the players close together. Being friends off the court can help when it is game time. For team bonding, the basketball team had pasta nights. "We went to someone's house for pasta night before every conference game and it was a fun experience," said junior Jackson Buzea.

**JV** Although the junior varsity team did not have a winning record, they still gave it their all. The team continued to do their best even when their coach got sick and could not be at all the games. Some members of the JV team are eagerly waiting for the next season, so they can improve and move up to play on varsity. "I'm looking forward to next year because I have a chance of making varsity and I think that would be really exciting," said freshman Garrett Litke.

**Freshmen** Like the JV team, the freshmen team did not have a winning record either. "The season went pretty bad because we lost too many games," said freshman Brandon Cole. They enjoyed playing the games and had a good time doing it. The team members hope to improve on their plays and get better for the next season.

"We could work on defense because we were mainly offense and tried to score," said freshman Austin Foster.

# P-ettes

page by Morgan Momciovich and Brooke Trueblood

**Closer Then Ever** To become the hard working team the Pantherettes are, you have to be able to stand each other. By doing team bonding, the girls got to know each other very well (and sometimes more than you would like to). From going out to dinner, having cook-outs, practicing everyday and things as interesting as "B.N.O" (boys night out), the girls got really close.



Cook Out



Lil Girls Camp



Turnabout



Pink Converse



Marian Competition



Munster Competition



LC Competition



Annie Higginbotham



State

During their hip hop routine, the girls wave "hi" toward the audience in sync with the music. "We were supposed to do a freaky smile while waving hi. I tried to make mine extra freaky by thinking of Frankenstein," said freshman Hanna Vrabley.



Annie Higginbotham

#### ^ ^ n away

At state, the girls go up for a team toe touch. "The only thing wrong with the picture is that everyone is at different points in their toe touch," said freshman Renee Franker. The girls were really happy with their pom performance.

#### <3 TC

Posing their poms in a shape of a heart, the Pantherettes and boys basketball team had a fundraiser to raise money for coach Terri Calhoun and coach Craig Adelsperger. Both coaches are sick with cancer and at the game everyone was able to sign a huge poster of the picture.



photo provided



Row 1: Rebecca Franker, Mia Reitz, Aimee Johnson, Morgan Momciliovich, Hillary Baccino, Kiki Brinkley

Row 2: Natisha Wlodekrycz, Angelina Ojeda, Katie Mitchell, Sara Winniecki, Brooke Trueblood

Row 3: Sarah Clark, Sarah Guistolisi, Hanna Vrabley, Mallory Baccino, Renee Franker, Kelly Jones

#### sc001 sp1rt

At a football game, the girls spell out letters to get the crowd pumped. They do the letter block in every dance. "It stinks when you're in the third row, because it hurts your knees when you first learn the letters since it takes so long to get them perfect," said freshman Sara Clark



All Pietrucha



All Pietrucha

#### kickin' it up

"Kicks are a tradition for the Pantherettes to do in routines," said junior Katie Mitchell. The girls performed kicks in several of their dance routines during football and basketball season and continued the tradition in their competition routine.



Annie Higginbotham

#### strutin' their stuff

As they hit their first motion as stiff as possible, the Pantherettes begin their hip hop routine. "Hip hop was something we've never done before, and I thought we did really well for it being our first time," said senior Mia Reitz.

# A fresh start

page by Chrissy Obermeyer

**Starting in the summer** While many sports only take up one season, cheerleading goes throughout the whole year. This year, tryouts were held in March and conditioning practices began soon after, continuing through the summer. In June, both the varsity and junior varsity squads went to a camp hosted by the National Cheerleaders Association to sharpen their skills and learn new techniques and stunts for the upcoming year.



Kylee Ulm, 10

**New coaches, new changes** At the beginning of July, a new set of coaches took over both squads. One of them, Michelle Petersen, a social studies teacher in the middle school, had no prior cheerleading experience. "I wanted to become a coach because I knew the girls who were cheering and they are an amazing group of people," explained Petersen. The other coach, Amber Parsons, cheered at a high school and college level, and had many ideas and new skills for the squads to learn. "I loved our old coach, and she was great, but this year I just think we improved so much," sophomore Taylor Surowiec stated.



Bailey Curtis, 12 and  
Jessica Bredlaw, 11



Junior varsity squad



**Practice, and more practice** To prepare themselves for football season and beyond, the varsity and junior varsity squads began practicing for three hours a day. The beginning practices consisted of conditioning and teaching cheers, like the panther rumble, and stunts to new squad members. As the summer continued into fall, the squads began working on new material: original cheers and more involved and complex stunts.



At Kankakee Valley



Varsity squad



Varsity squad



At Kankakee Valley

## "th3r3's a boy in th3r3!"

"We always have fun before games; it helps make the games more exciting," said senior Bailey Curtis. Here Curtis, along with juniors Shannon Carpenter and Jessica Bredlaw goof around with the panther, senior Keith Mitchell, before a football game.

## scor3 6 mor3

At the very first game of the season, sophomore Kylee Ulm and junior Kaitlyn Herron cheered on the football team as they beat Morton that night. "It was exciting, because it was the first game of the season, and we wanted to show everyone how much we improved over the summer," said junior Kaitlyn Herron.



Homecoming pep rally



Regionals at Lowell



**Football season** Everyone knows that Griffith is a football town, and for the cheerleaders, football season is the peak of their year. The stands are packed with crazy fans, and the varsity squads spend their practices working on cheers and stunts that will catch the attention of the hundreds of football fanatics during timeouts and in between quarters. "The worst part of football season is figuring out everything we're going to do, there is so much involved," explained junior Trisha Monroe.

**Basketball season** During basketball season, there is always a game on Friday, but during basketball season, there are up to three games a week, always on different days. "My least favorite part of the year was the craziness of having so many games in one week," Petersen said of basketball season. The significant increase in games meant less time for practices, which slowed the improvement of new stunts. One change junior Jessica Bredlaw would have made during basketball season was "having more practices."

**Overall** While almost every cheerleader agrees that there is so much drama involved in cheerleading, many of them wouldn't have it any other way. Freshman Kylie Eatman stated, "Cheerleading would be so dull without drama!"

And Bredlaw explained, "It's what I've always done, I wouldn't know what to do if I wasn't in cheerleading."



photo provided

#### w/ xmas spirit

Performing a routine for a Christmas party at the S.O.S Children's Village in Chicago, the varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders cheese it up. The squads held a toy drive and donated over 500 toys to the village. "It felt good to give the kids a Christmas they might not have had if we hadn't helped them," explained junior Jessica Breclaw.



photo provided



#### Varsity

Row 1: Chrissy Obermeyer, Bailey Curtis

Row 2: Taylor Long, Jessica Breclaw, Ashley Darrough

Row 3: Kyra Scheeringa, Trisha Monroe, Taylor Surowiec, Shannon Carpenter



#### Junior Varsity

Row 1: Rebecca Basaleh, Michelle Velez

Row 2: Ellison Cullen, Crystal Vanwhite, Jenny Lanfear, Aisha Darrough

#### s3nior nit3 prac

Before the senior night game, the varsity squad practices their quarter cheers for the night. Senior Katie Miller said about senior night that she felt, "overwhelmed that my senior year was finally here, it was sad."



photo provided



photo provided

#### flyin hi

With all their strength, freshmen Ellison Cullen and Jenny Lanfear lift fellow freshman Billie Reitz into the air during the announcement of the starting five for the junior varsity game.

# Bowl it

page by Hannah Hack

**Lightin' it up** The highlight for athletes during their season could be getting a tremendous strike during a big match, or cheering their teammates on to a win. "What really surprised me was [senior] Codie Olar bowling a 300 out of nowhere," sophomore Steven Gronkiewicz said. Many surprises came out of this year's bowling teams.

**Bonding together** Many sports teams at GHS have very close bonds. Whether it's on the floor or on the weekends, the captains like to make the season more enjoyable by having the team spend time together. "Once we hit sectionals and regionals, we made t-shirts together on Wednesday nights before the Saturday meets," freshman Elizabeth Kras said.

**Laugh it off** Seasons all have their funny memories that everyone can look back at and just laugh. The funny moments can come during an important match or during practices and even so, everyone will still remember. "One day I was at bowling practice and I didn't let go of the ball, and I went flying out into the lane; everyone started laughing," said freshman Courtney Hargis.

**Oh, the practices** When it comes to practice for any sport, it can be very hectic and really put a lot of pressure on the athletes. Getting better everyday in practices are what teams need to become the best. "Practices went well this year; we all became better bowlers from it," said sophomore Christopher Plucienski.

**Conference** In a talented group of young bowlers, coming out on top is always an achievement. Senior Kyle Lidster and junior Ryan McCoy made first team all conference this year. "It's good to know that I'm one of the best in the conference. It's kind of an honor," Lidster said.

**Steppin' up for sectionals** Win or go home; that's the rule of a very important sectional match. That's exactly what sophomore Courtney Koleski did to advance the girls' bowling team to regionals. "Sectionals came down to when I had to get two strikes in a row, and a six count to win. I got my two strikes and a nine count," Koleski said. "It was in order for us to win so it was nerve-wracking, because if I didn't we would've lost," she added.

**State or bust** Making the trip down to the IHSA state finals is a very large goal for any high school athlete or team. When this goal is met, it can be a very big moment, especially for the girls' bowling team, which made its first appearance in its history. The girls finished in seventh overall, and McCoy, who also advanced, finished third in individuals overall.

## Griffith Varsity Bowling

### Conference

G 8-2

B 8-2

### Overall

16-4



Justin Phillips, 11



Margaret Cartwright, 9



Eric Weber, 11



Amanda Zaborowski

### Pr@ctic3 m@k3s p3rf3ct

Hoping for a strike, sophomore Megan Gale practices her bowling technique. "We go into practice, bowl, and get it done," Gale exclaimed. Bowling takes a lot of practice to get the ball to go where you want it to.





Ainanda Zabotowska



Amanda Zaborowski



Amanda Zaborowski



Analisis Zalvoranah

hi 5!

Enthusiastically encouraging each other, junior teammates Justin Phillips and Jose Cisneros cheer each other on. Cisneros said, "I was jacked for giving him a high-five for getting a strike!"

pi@win' the ROI

Being a senior, Kyle Lidster has a big role to play on the GHS boys' bowling team. "It's a sense of leadership, not really weird being the only senior," Lidster said. "It's nice being the oldest," he added.



**Front Row:** Megan Gale, Michelle Plucinski, Kirsten Rex, Courtney Hargis, California Lemus, Codie Olar

**Second Row:** Dan Woloszyn, Courtney Hauser, Missy Sipos, Jessica Burbridge, Courtney Koleski, Margaret Cartwright, Elizabeth Kras, Colleen Lidster



**Front Row:** Steven Gronkiewicz, Eric Weber, Andrew Thomas, Jeff Tinich, Zach Reed, Kyle Hylacki, Justin Phillips

**Second Row:** Jose Cisneros, Chris Plucinski, Dominic Scattolon, Kyle Lidster, Seth Verhich, Randy Vania, Michael Kubacki Sr.

thr0win' th3 \$triK3\$

"Bowling practices are usually fun and laid-back until coaches get in your face," junior Ryan McCoy stated. "Teammates make practice a lot easier." Bowling meets a few times a week for practices.



Аманда Задорожная



Row 1: Rachel Garastik, Christina Aldape, Sam Aguilar, Kalie Lastagarkov, Row 2: Alyssa Lanting, Rachel Mierzwa, Rachel Hayes, Casey McDaniel, Lauren Paprocki, Lauren Mathews Row 3: Jenna Berz, Chrissy Leslie, Courtney Hayes, Lindsay Meece, Caity Hayes, Raquel Mazur, Alexis Morikis, Shannon Schiedel Row 4: Cory Jung, Katie Lesniewski, Lexi Bozinovich, Vanessa Gonzalez, Frances Pietrucha, Ali Pietrucha, Sam Fies



Dylan Houlihan

#### div3 n

Doing a hurdle to the end of the board, senior Katie Lesniewski gets ready to jump in. "As a freshman I wanted to do gymnastics, but since our school did not have a team, diving is a great alternative," said Lesniewski.

#### quik start

As her teammate approaches, freshman Sam Aguilar gets ready to do her relay start. "Swimming was a great way to stay in shape and meet new people who I enjoy hanging out with," said Aguilar.



Lisa Rata

### stroke wrk

"This year was amazing because I dropped so much time in my events from last year," said Casey McDaniel. McDaniel swims the breaststroke and the freestyle in individual and in the team relays.

### All out

Sprinting towards the finish line, Lindsay Meece puts every last amount of energy she has into her event. "Swimming distance is difficult at times, but it's one of my favorite events to swim," said Meece.



Lisa Rafa



Lisa Rafa

### warming ^

Resting between sets, junior Chrissy Leslie and senior Lexi Bozinovich catch their breath. "I thought about not swimming this year to do other things, but it was worthwhile to me," said Bozinovich.

# Going all out!

page by Jake Long

## Griffith Varsity Girl's Swimming

### Conference

1-4

### Overall

7-6

### Highland

129-50 L

### Lowell

142-38 L

### Munster

125-60 L

### Gavit

129-46 W

### West Side

129-38 W

### Hobart

109-69 W

### Merrillville

124-69 L

### Wheeler

139-41 L

### Kankakee Valley

119-61 L

### EC Central

147-56 W

### Hammond High

147-50 W

### Bishop Noll

139-32 W

### Clark

139-40 W

**Preseason problems** Due to the pool being closed down, the team missed out on any conditioning before practices started up. This made the team behind to start the season. "I think that if we would have had more conditioning to start the season, we would have been more competitive early on in the season," said junior Courtney Hayes.

**New additions** This season began with many new swimmers that decided to come out for the team. Junior Caitly Hayes transferred from Gavit this past season and made an impact upon arrival. "Swimming was a new experience for me, but the practices were hard. My teammates helped me push through, however," said Hayes.

**Rivalry** Part of the sport of swimming is having another team that pushes your team to do the best they can. For the girl swimmers, that team was Hobart. Junior Lindsay Meece was offended by how they handled their victory last year. "We wanted to beat Hobart because when they beat us last year, they had no class about it," said Meece. "This year when we beat them we were more respectful than they were."

**Practice** Swimming requires a lot of dedication and hard work. Dealing with practice, schoolwork, and social life can be difficult at times, but the swimmers who overcome these challenges are the swimmers who see the best results out of practice and in meets.

**Meet preparation** Every home meet, the team will meet at the pool immediately after school. After a short warm up, the team then goes down to Shannon Schiedel's FACS room to eat pasta and salad. On away meets, immediately after school, the team meets in the same room and enjoys a sub sandwich from Subway. "I really enjoy the food, and it's all a great way to bond and talk with teammates," said sophomore Rachel Mierwa.

**Conference** Unlike most sports, swimming has one meet that decides conference places for teams. It's also a good chance for individuals to see how they compare to other teams before going into Sectionals. "Conference was a great time because it showed that I still had some work to do before Sectionals," said sophomore Casey McDaniel.

**Sectionals** The final chance to get your best times of the year is in Sectionals. For the seniors, this was their last time competitively swimming. "I was really glad that I was able to get my best time in my final time racing," said senior Lexi Bozinovich.

# I want to see **EXPLOSIONS!**

page by Raquel Mazur

**Practicing hard every day** With practices that started at three o'clock after school each day going until five, the swimmers eased into the season. Later, practice was extended an hour and the difficulty picked up. Christmas break is when the season is at its peak, really getting ready for conference and sectionals with four hour practices each day.

**Growing closer** During the course of the season, the guys would throw different parties for team bonding. Juniors Dylan Moullesong and Nick Sharp would throw parties for the team. They would play Rock Band, Halo, and other games, while eating, which is what swimmers are known for. The team also went out to Old Country Buffet before girls' conference, and for their sectionals, they shaved their heads, legs, and chests as a team. Junior Christian Martinez also hosted the annual Christmas Party.

**Setbacks in the season** In the preseason and during the season, a few unfortunate mishaps with the pool cut back conditioning time and put the swimmers out of the water for a few more days. The pool's filter broke in October, which is the conditioning season for both girls and boys. Later, the E. coli infection that also affected Hammond, Munster, and Highland pools caused the pool to be shut down for a few days. "The filter was shut off for one practice, so people were coughing and getting sick," said sophomore Jeremy Starks.

**Personal accomplishments** Some swimmers swam their best times this year. Sophomore Zach Pirtle swam 23.9 seconds for the 50 yard freestyle and a 53.89 seconds for the 100 yard freestyle. Junior Dan Rodriguez dropped more than a minute in his 500 yard freestyle and was able to do fly as well as junior Jimmy Burch. Junior Ron Higginbotham swam in sectionals, and finished second in his heat for the 100 yard backstroke.

**'LOL' Moments** If there is one thing that the team is good at, it is having a good time. A few of the favorite moments this year were: when Coach Sam swam with the team, the showers being turned into a *Slip 'N Slide*, when [junior] Dylan (Moullesong) got kicked out of practice, [sophomore] Jeremy (Starks) impersonating Coach Sam, when [sophomore] Zac (Bozinovich) got tripped at the Christmas party, and all of the innuendos.

**Awards** For the 2009 season, five boys were given the honor of MVP, most improved, rookie of the year, and best mental attitude. Juniors Jake Long and Jake Anderson received MVP, sophomore Jeremy Starks received most improved, rookie of the year went to sophomore Matt Fitch, and junior Gabe Sotres won best mental attitude.

## gettin rdy 2 kick sum butt

Preparing for the 200 medley relay, junior Christian Martinez places his goggles into place. "I like being in relays because we all have to work together," said Martinez. Martinez likes to swim the 500 yd freestyle, but thinks practice is the worst part.



photo provided



M. Petrucci

## give it ur all 2 win

With all his strength, sophomore Matt Fitch pushes for a strong finish. "I enjoy swimming because I enjoy being in the water," said Fitch. "The most difficult part is the 30 minute swims, but water polo is the best." Fitch swims the 200 yard freestyle, 100 yard back, and 400 yard relay.



Ari Pietrucha



photo provided

### **perfect timin, 4m, & strOnG finish**

"My best memory this year was winning first place in the 100 yd butterfly," said junior Jake Long. "Practice is difficult, and you have to be dedicated." Long was one of two captains this year, and loves to compete in the meets.

### **conseNtr8tion is key**

In his first year diving, freshman Joey Vaclavik competes with his backwards dive. "I chose to dive because I had to do a winter sport, and I didn't want to do basketball," said Vaclavik. "The worst part is flopping, but getting first place in the Morton meet was the best."



photo provided



Ari Pietrucha



**Row 1:** Dan Rodriguez, Garrett Walter, Charles Roberson, Nicholas Kudya, Nicholas Fitch, Jake Long

**Row 2:** Dylan Mouselung, Ryan Riggle, Zac Bozinovich, Zach Pirtle, Jeremy Starks, Christian Martinez, Ron Higginbotham

**Row 3:** Shannon Schiedel, Jacob Anderson, Nikola Pupac, Jimmy Burch, Gabe Sotres, Sam Fias



photo provided

### **Time 2 get pumpd ^**

The team meeting before the meets for the boys is an important tradition. In the huddle, they talk about what needs to be accomplished for that meet. "My favorite part about swimming is the half hour swim because it's so relaxing," said junior Dylan Mouselung.



photo provided

### **bend, twist, & flip 4 the win!**

Diving since he was in seventh grade, junior Jake Anderson loves the sport. "I learned four or five new dives this year," said Anderson. "Only some of them were difficult." Anderson loves to dive because it's something that not everyone can do.

# Wrestle to win

page by Kaitlyn Herron

**Senior night** One of the best meets the boys had during the season was senior night. "We won by one on the last match pin," said senior Chris Bartley. At senior night, Griffith wrestled against a close to home team, Calumet.

**Team bonding** Throughout the season, the boys would have team bonding to build a strong team. Senior Nick Gonzalez said, "We went out on Saturday nights and ate a lot of food."

The boy's favorite restaurants were Sonic and Olive Garden. "We went to Sonic once last year, so it became our favorite, but we haven't gotten a chance to go there this year," said junior Matt Beck.

**Rivalry** Competitiveness, wanting to win, or maybe even jealousy between two teams can cause rivalry. Rivalry between teams happens each year for all sports. For Griffith Wrestlers, their biggest rival is Calumet. "They [Calumet wrestlers] wrestle dirty and we usually face them on senior night," said Bartley.

**Practice** Throughout the season the boys have practice almost everyday for about two hours. They practice hard to build up their endurance for meets and to prepare for them. Junior Matt Beck said, "They were hard and intense; sometimes we ran, we drilled, and we wrestled live."

**The freshman** Getting used to practices, learning the sport, and being the "newbies" are some things a freshman has to look forward to when being new on the team. It can always be intimidating for the freshmen. "Since I was a freshman, I really didn't know anyone on the team," said freshman Kody Hosein. Joining a sport is a good idea for freshmen because it's a good way to meet some of the upperclassmen.

**The mat maids** To help throughout the wrestling season, the team has mat maids. They help the coaches, set up the home meets, get anything the boys need, make them breakfast before meets on Saturdays, keep running score of records, and keep score during the meets. Junior Veronica Smith said, "If there weren't any mat maids [coach] Walls would be lost without us, and so would the boys on the team." The other mat maids who help out are juniors Amanda Valtierra and Ashley Robinson.

**Semi-State** Four boys from the team were Semi-State Qualifiers: sophomore Brian Orzechowicz, and senior's Nick Gonzalez, Gabe Muro, and Chris Bartley. Semi-State was held at Merrillville High School, where the Griffith boys competed. Sophomore Brian Orzechowicz said, "It was pretty exciting making it to semi-state since I'm only a sophomore."

## 3asy m@tch3s

During sectionals, which were hosted at Calumet, senior Gabe Muro had no problem wrestling against his opponent. "This match was easy for me because River Forest sucks," said Muro.

### Griffith Varsity Wrestling

#### Conference

2-4

#### Overall

10-7

#### Highland 45-35 W

KV 22-48 L

Munster 13-61 L

Clark 42-33 W

Morton 54-27 W

Gavit 63-22 W

Concord 48-22 W

LaPort 42-40 W

Michigan City

29-42 L

S.B. Clay 21-51 L

E.E.C. 48-18 W

Andrean 58-12 W

Hobart 32-39 L

Lowell 27-51 L

Calumet 34-33 W

Lake Station

54-21 W

Lake Station

48-36 W

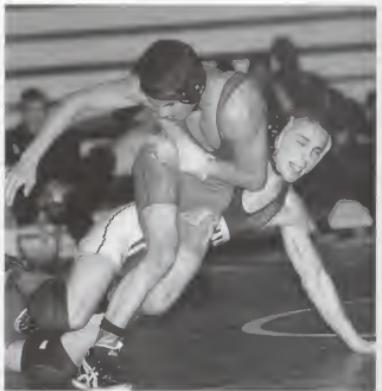


photo provided



#### @ s3n1or n1ght

During senior night, senior Nick Gonzalez wrestled against an opponent from Calumet. "I won this match, and then we won the meet," said Gonzalez. To win this match he used a particular wrestling move. Gonzalez called it, "the tilt."

### chillin w/ th3 t3am

Once in a while the team might have some time during practices or meets to take a break. During some free time at a meet, the boys talk to senior Michael Noojin. "I just went by them to hangout and talk with the team," said Noojin.



photo provided



Row 1: Robert Gonzalez, Matt Beck, Chris Bartley, Mark Douglas, Austin Guzior, Nick Gonzalez, Collin Slagle, Brian Orzechowicz

Row 2: Veronica Smith, Barry Balsrus, Mike Beck, Gabe Muro, Joe Nunez, Justin Kelley, Shawn Sikos, Cody Modglin, Taylor Steffan

Row 3: Russ Radtke, Kody Hosen, Robert Megquier, Travis Walls, Justin Herrera, Ryan Zubrick, Nicholas Stasson, Larry Slagle



photo provided



photo provided



photo provided

### givin it his all

Working hard to win this match, sophomore Brian Orzechowicz not only had to wrestle his best, but also wrestle in a new weight class. "I went up to 112 because they needed someone to wrestle in that weight class," said Orzechowicz.

### supporting his t3am

Sitting out because of an injury, senior Austin Guzior still attends meets to support his team. "I went to every meet and just tried to do whatever I could to help out and support my team, since I couldn't wrestle this season," said Guzior.

# Serve it!

page by Kaitlyn Herron

**Team bonding** Spending quality time together, inside jokes, and hanging out as a team strengthens the relationships and creates a strong team. Sophomore Michelle Sopetti said, "We t.p. the coach's house and have sleepovers." Not only does it create a close knit team, but also creates memories that the team will always have to look back on.

**Funny memories and inside jokes** Every team has moments throughout the season that will never be forgotten. One of the funniest memories sophomore Lindsey Sopetti had was knocking out her partners. "I hit all my partners in the head when I serve," said Sopetti.

Some inside jokes the girls had throughout the season was singing chants and saying "get smashed." "It has a double meaning, one of the meanings is kill the ball with the net, but we can't tell you what the other one means," said Sopetti.

**Rivalry** The team who they have the biggest rivalry with is Highland. "They are good and we have close scores," said Lindsey Sopetti. Having close scores creates the competitiveness between the two teams and causes a lot of the rivalry.

**Practice** Practicing for matches not only improves their tennis skills, but also prepares the girls for actual matches. "Practices are about one and a half hours long and we do a lot of scrimmages," said Michelle Sopetti.

Even though practices can get intense, the girls still have fun. Junior Kara Bucholz said, "There a lot of fun we really got to know each other." Sometimes the girls will set up fake matches or play against coach Tracy Sines during practices.

**The best and worst game of the season** Having an intense match, playing and beating your team rival, or even winning a certain match, can cause it to be one of your favorites. For junior Jackie Lopez, it was the match against KV. "It was a really close game," said Lopez.

On the other hand, playing bad or losing a match can cause it to be one of the worst matches of the season. One of the worst matches the girls had this year was the loss against Munster. Kara Bucholz said, "We went in there with confidence and it sucks getting shut down."

## Overall season

The girls tennis teams overall season was 7-7. Although the girls lost to Highland at sectionals their coach was still pleased with their overall performance. "Coming into the season I only had three girls with Varsity experience so I knew it might be a tough season, but the girls worked hard and improved as the season ended," said coach Tracy Sines.

Griffith  
Varsity  
Tennis

Conference  
0-6  
Overall  
7-7

Highland 0-5 L  
KV 5-0 W  
Munster 0-5 L  
Hammond 5-0 W  
Morton 0-5 L  
Bishop Noll 4-1 W  
Lake Central 0-5 L  
Lowell 1-4 L  
Calumet 5-0 W  
Hobart 0-5 L  
Whiting 3-2 W  
Andrean 2-3 L  
River Forest 4-1 W  
Clark 4-1 W

Sectionals  
Highland 0-5 L



Amanda Zaborowski

**pr3p@rn 4 a m@tch**  
Getting prepared for a match at Highland, Junior Jackie Lopez fixes her racket. "I was fixing my strings on my racket because I was getting ready for a match," Lopez said.

**durln a m@tch**  
Having full confidence in herself while swinging her racket, junior Jessica Burbridge hits the ball to the other side of the court. "While I was hitting the ball, I remember thinking, /got this," said Burbridge.



### t@lk1n tO c0@ch

Before a match, coach Sines Instructs sophomore Lindsey Sopetti and senior Britney Cabrales to help them beat the Highland opponents. "Coach Sines was giving us instructions on how to play better so we could win the match," said Sopetti.

### tuff c0mp3tt110n

Trying to keep up with the other team, sophomore Chrissy Colgrove tries to earn a point. "The girls we played were really tough, but we did what we could to keep up with them," said Colgrove. The girls were playing against their rival team, Highland.



Amanda Zaborowski



Amanda Zaborowski



Row 1: Mary Carmen, Sara Torres, Jackie Lopez, Katherine Kus, Kara Bucholz, Jessica Hermasillo, Amy Zellers

Row 2: Andee Mullens, Jennifer Buxton, Katie Cahill, Natasha Subotic, Ashley Ames, Lindsay Pierce, Chrissy Colgrove

Row 3: Tracy Sines, Jill Fitzgerald, Lindsey Sopetti, Jessica Burbridge, Michelle Sopetti, Britney Cabrales, Erica Kudyba



Amanda Zaborowski



Amanda Zaborowski

### b4 a m@tch

While having some free time between matches senior Natasha Subotic and junior Kara Bucholz listen to music and support their team members. Subotic said, "I was watching Jessica [Hermosillo's] match and dancing to the music we were listening to."

### st@rt1ng Off a m@tch

Before they begin to compete, both teams line up and meet their competition. Senior Jennifer Buxton said, "We line up before they introduce the team, and shake the opponents hands." This is a friendly way to start off a game.

# Go for the green

page by Jillian Dixion and Amanda Bakko

**Highlight** The golf team had many important moments and highlights throughout the season. "The highlight of the season was usually the bus rides because we cracked jokes and goofed around," said junior Stephen Greenwood. "An unexpected highlight was having to golf in the rain, which sucked because it can get muddy and hard to hit," said Greenwood. Also, taking home a victory will always be a memorable moment for the team.

**Traditions** The golf team doesn't have dozens of traditions like some sports, but they have a couple. One tradition was that the team asked their coach to let them spend the night at his house and play Rockband since their first meet. Another tradition would be when the team got ready for the meet, they turned up classic rock and roll music as loud as it could go on the bus. "We didn't have any traditions that I know of, but we joked around with the freshmen a lot," said sophomore Jeff Tinich. "If they didn't hit the ball past the women's tee then you would have to drop your pants, but no one ever did that," continues Tinich.

**Rivalry** Most sports teams have a lot of competition to challenge them. Having a rivalry that the team strives to beat is something that players look forward to. Highland was the biggest rivalry for the golf team. "Preparing for the match comes easy though; we have no extra practices, but we are instructed to practice putting at home," said sophomore James Steinhubel.

**Practice** The team practiced Monday through Friday after school for about three hours. Usually the team played nine holes or sometimes they went to the driving range. "Practice could be funny at times because we told coach he was a horrible golfer and Nick Stassin nagged him about his score," said freshman Josh Ashenbaugh. During practice the team went into groups on the golf course and they also had a day where they practiced putting and used their irons.

**Expectations** The most important expectation was to win conference, since the team did not achieve that goal the previous year. "We kept the same practice schedule as last year," said senior Mike Guistolisi. "We just hoped the other teams got worse," said Guistolisi. Even though there are not many expectations, the team still worked hard to reach their personal goals.

## Griffith Varsity Golf

### Conference 1-5 Overall 5-6

Portage  
180-187 W  
Gavit  
212-264 W  
Munster  
204-170 L  
KV  
194-184 L  
Clark  
191-261 W  
Lowell  
220-193 L  
Lake Station  
181-321 W  
Hammond  
High  
181-183 W  
Boone Grove  
204-160 L  
Andreas  
204-185 L  
Wheeler  
204-186 L  
Andreas  
200-161 L

### Sectionals 3rd

### Regionals 12th

## hole-in-1!

In golf there are many different types of golf clubs to use. Some players use different ones depending on their preference. "My favorite club is the driver because it is the only type that is exciting to use," said sophomore Matt Ficht.

## time 2 golf =)

For some people, golfing has been a tradition in their family. "I've been golfing for about ten years; a lot of my family members play, so they influenced me and my dad always pushed me to do better," said junior Justin Phillips.



Jake Long





Jake Long



Jake Long



Jake Long

#### b!rd!e

Golf, like many other sports, can be difficult at times. "The most challenging thing about golf would be keeping your mental attitude positive because once you lose your confidence, your whole game goes down," said junior Zach Kisfalusi.

#### goin home

Being an underclassman can be discouraging at first for some people. "I think the hardest thing about being a freshman on the team would be that the juniors and seniors push the freshmen around on the bus," said freshman Josh Ashenbaugh.



Jake Long



Jake Long

#### p@r

Golf can be a stressful, but sometimes relaxing sport. You have to concentrate when you are golfing, but when you aren't you can relax. "My favorite thing about golf is walking around with people and just having a good time," said sophomore Chris Plucinski.

#### rdy 2 golf..

The seniors on the golf team are sad to be leaving their friends on the team. "I will miss getting to play on different courses for free," said senior Tony Solovais.



Row 1: Mike Tinich, Zach Spires, Justin Phillips, Nick Stassine, Zach Kisfalusi, Tyrell Tinnin, Josh Ashenbaugh  
Row 2: Chris Plucinski, Tony Solovais, James Stienhubel, Mike Wozniak, Steve Greenwood, Matt Fitch, Mike Guistalosi



Row 1: Corey Breclow, Eurn Abram, Ryan Zubrick, Jerry Sharpe, Justin Gasper, Joel Kepchar, Charles Roberson

Row 2: Nick Udzitz, Kevin Grahn, Matt Bluhm, Nathan Bailey, Zack Duvinek, Jimmy Burch, Robert Gonzalez, Joe Nunez, Patrick Ruesken

Row 3: Coach Bo Radtke, Ethan Adams, Jaime Hernandez, Michael Barlow, Nahana McLean, Ronald Higginbotham, Joe Narolewski, Troy Yarnelle, Davis Stokes, Zack Butkus

Row 4: Coach Brian Orkis, Meciej Szczepkowski, Devon Moseley, Greg Meyers, Brad Hardin, Eddie Boncile, Ted Basham, Mark Butkus, Tim Green, Coach Russ Radtke



Row 1: Savannah Mendoza, Katie Miller, Esperanza Sanchez, Ashveq Issa, Chloe Fox

Row 2: Annie Scheffel, Shae Siskos, Rachell Fogart, Jeda Harris, Lakisha Hill, Chrissy Leslie, Michaela Ezell, Vanessa Blacksheep

Row 3: Natalie Drach, Kyra Sheering, Caitlin Hayes, Kathleen Villalpando, Stephanie Negrete, Janessa Salinas, Sam Aguilar, Courtney Hayes, Stephanie Hobbs, Kanessa Jones, Coach Maggie Leslie

Row 4: Coach Matt Barnow, Na Vasis Flemming, Brienne Nelson, Brittni McLemore, Kim Lindsey, Victoria Anderson, Cetta Jackson, Crystal Vanwhite, Billie Reitz

Row 5: Coach Alex Brandon, Mayada Issa, Lindsay Meece, Shanicha Scheerings, Olivia Anguiano, Carly Dunn, Pashon Newsom-Bredy, Sam Marker, Amelia Morales, Ashley Brown, Coach Shannon Scheidel



### 2 th3 finish

To make it to the finish, sophomore Sam Marker runs to her full potential. "My goal is to make it to regionals," Marker said. "I enjoy winning," she added.

### How hi?

In order to succeed in high jump, sophomore Gilbert Eatman practices, works out in the weight room, and runs. His highest jump was 5'8". His ultimate goal is "to make regionals and try my hardest," Eatman said.



ESD photo

### **jump f@r**

During Michael Barlow's best event, the long jump, he gives it his all. When asked about his most memorable moment of the season, he said, "Kevin Graham and Devon Moseley on the bus because what Kevin said to Devon."

### **wOrk th3 shOt**

With determination, junior Stephanie Negrete works on her shot. "I was just warming up trying to get ready for conference to win it," she said. Negrete works hard to accomplish her goals and do the best she can.



Jake Long



Jake Long

### **w@ts my tIm?**

"Track is one of my three sports that I do. It helps me get conditioned for cross country, and it encompasses running, which is one of my favorite things to do in the world," said Junior Jimmy Burch. Burch was checking his time after he finished running.

# **Run fast!**

page by Lisa Rafa and Rachel Garastik

**Goals** Throughout the season, there are different things that each member of the team wants to accomplish. "One of my goals is to make sectionals," said Junior Greg Meyers. Whether it's beating a previous time or running faster than another person from an opposing team, there is always some kind of goal that every person wants to achieve in the season.

**The team to beat** "Lowell of course. They're good at like everything," said Junior Devon Moseley. Every team has another that they will do anything to defeat. They play their hardest and do all they can to try to come out on top. And no matter what the outcome may be, they take pride in what they were able to accomplish when they did play against their rival.

**Favorite thing to do** Every person has something in particular that they enjoy more than anything during the season. Friendships can often have a lot to do with the amount of enjoyment track brings to certain people, as with freshman David Stokes. When consulted about his favorite thing to do, Stokes said "Running with everyone because they're my friends."

**Friendships** There is always something that appeals to members of a sports team. "The best part of track is all the friends you make and constantly improving your times," said freshman Joel Kepchar. Over time, when you are with people, you start to grow a special bond with them, and that can often make a person feel more comfortable when they have to compete.

**Conference** For many, conference is a very important time where they try their hardest and do the best they can. "Conference was amazing and I got my best times," said freshman Sam Aguilar.

**Sectionals** On Tuesday May 19th, junior Stephanie Negrete went to sectionals. She was the only person from the team to make it that far. "Sectionals was fun. It was my first one ever winning. I've never won sectionals before, so it was a good experience," said Negrete.

**One lone state qualifier** Junior Stephanie Negrete was the only track team member to qualify for state. Negrete qualified in both shot put and discus, but failed to place at the state level.



## Varsity

- Row 1: Ed McLeod, Alex Latronica, Ashley Parish, Presley Corich, Dave Lutes.  
Row 2: Lindsay Brandner, Brandi Heidler, Shelby Boilek, Alyssa Van Horsen, Kellie Bubala, Sydney Reis.  
Row 3: Stephanie Brandner, Kristi Buxton, Kate Rone, Kalynn Ruiz, Stephanie Shively.



## Junior Varsity

- Row 1: Hanna Vrabely, Katie Biancardi, Casey McDaniel, Brandy Varga, Victoria Solivais, Amy Russel, Tiffany Burbridge.  
Row 2: Joleci Grabs, Sarah Guistolisi, Megan Gale, Rhiannon Cox, Cessie Shanks, Hope Ryan, Desiree Cadiz.

### swingin' @w@y

This year has been a memorable season for senior Lindsay Brandner. "My most memorable moment is hitting a home run versus Hobart or going to Gino's with my fellow seniors (BLAKS)."



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



### **3 strikes ur out!**

Pitching is one of the most important parts of the game. "My most memorable moment pitching was the first game I pitched for the season, I got a shut out with 14 strikeouts," said sophomore Alex Latronica.

### **w@rmin' ^**

Before the game senior Shelby Boilek throws the ball to first base. "I don't like anything about pre-game because they are quick," said Boilek. The pre-game warm-up consists of infielding and outfielding practice.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham

### **t@g her out!**

The highlight of four year starting senior Brandi Heidler's season was "hitting the game winning home run versus. Andean," said Heidler. Heidler's 3 run homer beat Andean 3-1.

Annie Higginbotham

## **Griffith Varsity Softball**

### **Conference**

**9-3**

### **Overall**

**14-12**

### **Merrillville**

**4-0 W**

### **Chesterton**

**1-10 L**

### **Boone Grove 2-3 L**

**Hobart**

**9-8 W**

### **Highland**

**2-0 W**

### **Hanover Central**

**1-5 L**

### **Andrean**

**0-6 L**

### **Munster**

**5-4 W**

### **Lowell**

**1-0 W**

**KV**

**2-3 L**

### **Highland**

**3-4 L**

### **Morton**

**4-0 W**

### **Munster**

**1-0 W**

### **Hobart**

**4-0 W**

### **Lowell**

**3-1 W**

### **Andrean**

**3-1 W**

### **KV 1-0 W**

### **Calumet**

**3-0 W**

### **Wheeler**

**5-2 L**

### **Lake Central**

**5-6 L**

### **Andrean 0-5 L**

### **JV record**

**11-11**

# **Pride poise team**

page by Stephanie Brandner and Kristi Buxton

### **Highlight**

The Griffith High School softball teams have had their share of ups and downs. Some of the ups could be considered winning the Blackford Tournament and having the different pregame rituals. "Before every game we do the cheer 'Go Go Get em'. That gets us all pumped up and ready for the game," said senior Kate Rone. Junior Stephanie Shively said, "I got to hit in the batting spot that gave me the opportunity to get the game winning hit to beat Lowell by one run."

### **Team bonding**

Both Junior Varsity and Varsity softball have their own different forms of team bonding. Whether it's going out to eat or just goofing off at practice, the teams will always be finding ways to get closer. "Varsity has a big sleepover for team bonding and we get crazy and it definitely brings the team together," said junior Sydney Reis.

### **Rivalry**

It's not a secret that the Griffith softball program's biggest rival is Andrean High School. Throughout the season, one of the team's goals is to beat Andrean. The Varsity team did beat Andrean on May 12 with a three run homerun by senior Brandi Heidler. Coach Ed Mcleod's said, "Andrean is a great team and they're hard nose competition. The rivalry is great to be apart of."

Sophomore Alex Latronica said, "Lowell and Andrean are our two biggest rivals because they have been for a long time and both teams are always ranked high in conference and in the state."

### **Practice**

"At practice we always work our butts off and I get insanely sweaty," said sophomore Presley Corich. Most of the girls feel that practice is the chance for them to work hard on their weaknesses in their games and that practice makes perfect. "Practice is just a part of the game and it's all about what the players put into it," said Mcleod.

### **Conference**

The Northwest Crossroads Conference is considered by many to be one of the toughest conferences in Indiana. The teams in Griffith High School's conference are Andrean, Highland, Hobart, Kankakee Valley, Lowell and Munster. "I feel that the teams in our conference are hard but definitely beatable. Andrean is the toughest because we're at about the same level with them so it's always a good game," said senior Shelby Boilek.

### **Sectionals**

"I believe that our sectional is a tough one. Andrean is our biggest competition and we'll have to play our best to win," said senior Brandi Heidler. Griffith lost to Andrean 5-0 in Sectionals.

### **Suspensions**

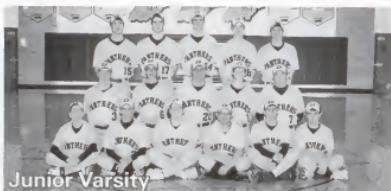
This 2009 season, six players combined on J.V. and Varsity had to have four game suspensions each. "It sucks that it's my senior year and I was suspended for four games. But we did break the rule without knowing so we have to accept the consequences," said senior Lindsay Brandner. Of the players suspended, there were two freshmen, two sophomores, one junior and a senior. Both J.V. and Varsity took the suspensions and turned them into something positive. The Varsity team finished second in conference and some of the conference games had to be played by nonstarters and they ended in a victory.



## Varsity

**Row 1:** Mark Miecznikowski, Kevin Konopasek, Travis Litke, Kyle Carter, Michael Dobosz, Samuel Carter

**Row 2:** Micheal Lanfear, Nick Trauscht, Kyle Lidster, Jeff Godlewski, John Evanich, Matthew Corlett, Jason Short



## Junior Varsity

**Row 1:** Dustin Holycross, Zechery Adams, Jack Blount, Joshua Kisfalusi, Cody Modglin,

**Row 2:** Eric Falkner, Nathaniel Lara, David Gonzalez, Cody Hamilton, Arturo Garcia

**Row 3:** Kyle Mull, Eric Bean, Calvin Bonewits, Danny Miller, Richard Zakrzewski

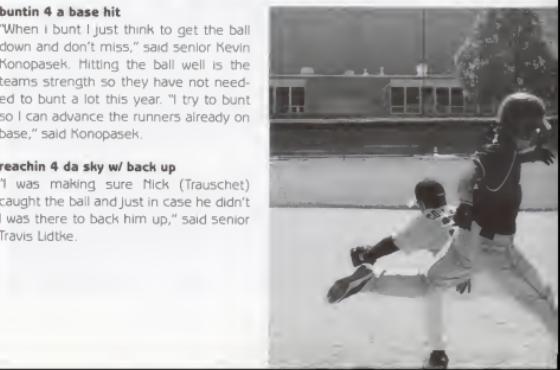


## buntin 4 a base hit

"When I bunt I just think to get the ball down and don't miss," said senior Kevin Konopasek. Hitting the ball well is the teams strength so they have not needed bunt a lot this year. "I try to bunt so I can advance the runners already on base," said Konopasek.

## reachin 4 da sky w/ back up

"I was making sure Nick (Trauscht) caught the ball and just in case he didn't I was there to back him up," said senior Travis Lidster.



## pumpin ^ the t3am

After every inning the boys come together to motivate each other. Seniors say things to get the team ready for the next inning. "It is usually Kono who talks and gets us motivated," said sophomore Calvin Bonewits.

## rdy 2 bat

Getting ready to bat senior Mark Miecznikowski is ready to take the plate. "When I'm getting ready to bat I always clear my head and just concentrate on the ball coming at me," said Miecznikowski.



## @Ra1cats Stadium

Beating Whiting 13 to 6 was a great win for the Panthers. They were on a losing streak and determined to win it. "This was the game that we started our rituals of lighting incense," said senior Ryan Galher. "We'd like to think it worked."

## lunge 4 an Out

Playing first is kind of new to junior Jeff Godlewski he has been only playing since last year and is loving it. "When the ball gets thrown I'm just thinking to make the play," said junior Jeff Godlewski. "When it is a fast play I have to make that huge lunge to catch the ball or even step off the plate," said Godlewski.

Griffith  
Varsity  
Baseball

Conference  
9-8  
Overall  
15-16

Calumet 22-3  
Morton 5-2  
Merrillville 12-2  
Portage 5-2  
Lake Central 15-3  
Crown Point 22-7  
Kankakee  
Valley 10-9  
Andrean 2-1  
Mishawaka 5-4  
South Bend Clay

5-1  
Munster 14-13  
Highland 2-0  
Whiting 13-6  
Chesterton 13-11  
Hobart 11-2  
Lowell 5-0  
Andrean 5-0  
Highland 10-0  
Kankakee Valley

18-5  
Bishop Noll 11-9  
Munster 5-4  
Clark 3-1  
Hobart 10-4  
Boon Grove 18-4

Lowell 10-0  
Washington Town-  
ship 16-5  
Gavit 8-5  
Kouts 14-4

Sectinals  
Calumet 5-0  
Kankakee Valley  
6-5  
Andrean

JV record  
12-6

# United

page by Morgan Momclich

**Quench Points** The baseball team has had a quench point system ever since assistant coach Dave Turoci has been coaching. "The player who does something out of their ability that game gets a quench point," says senior Ryan Galher. When the player gets the point coach Turoci gives the player a piece of quench gum. The max points you can get in a game is three and at the end of the year the player with the most points gets a trophy and steak dinner.

**New Traditions** Losing four of their last five games was something the boys were not happy with. Head coach Brian Jennings decided to get rid of their hex by lighting incense in the dug out. "We decided to put garlic in our right back pocket and I brought in an action figure baseball player to light incense in the top of his bat," said junior Matt Corlett. "It worked the first game we did it, which was against Whiting. I think it helped us relax," said sophomore Mike Dobosz.

**Biggest Rivalry** For many years now Andrean High has been a huge rivalry for the baseball team. The two teams have always put on a good game for their fans and the score is usually close. The rivalry seems to grow more and more as the teams collide to get their win. "If we play good defense and hit the ball we can beat them," said junior Jacob Evanich.

**United** The team motto seems to really portray how the team is this year. "We have really grown close this year than previous years, everyone is able to take jokes and nothing is off limits," said senior Nick Trauschet. With everyone being so close knit the team has had less stress all around and seems to have a fun time when they're together.

**Sectionals** Making it to sectionals was a huge accomplishment for the team. Making it to play the championship game was an even bigger one. The boys won against Calumet and then had a nail biting game against Kankakee Valley. "Kankakee Valley was a tough one when we went into extra innings I knew I needed to throw strikes and the team needed to hit," said sophomore Kyle Lidster.

**Freshmen Recap** The freshmen team started off rocky, but through the middle of the season they came out blazing. The started winning games and working as a team. At the end of the year though their head coach, Coach Ed Hon, had a heart attack. "It surprised us all because he was at just at practice the day before," said freshman Tyler Yost. "The last game we played was dedicated to him," said Yost.



### sellin the g00ds

Selling Krispy Kremes at the football game, junior Kier Brinkley tries to raise money for the Pantherettes. "We sold them at every home football game. The money that we earned went to the competition uniforms," said Brinkley.



Annie Higginbotham



Annie Higginbotham



### payin 4 lunch

While paying for lunch, senior Ishmael Strong uses his own money. "I work at Dairy Queen. My parents had given me money to spend, but I wanted more. I get a job so then I had more money," said Strong.

### getting \$\$

"I was selling tickets because Student Council needed people. I enjoyed selling tickets because it was easy for me. I am also good with money," said sophomore Alyssa Lanting. Lanting worked the talent show ticket table on March 7th.



Charisse Bogan



Ya!

-Natasha Subotic, 12



Chicken butt, my video was funny!

-Eric Bean, 10



#### buyin the tix

Money out and ready to give to Kay Orzechowicz, English Junior Greg Myers exchanges cash for his prom tickets. Instead of paper tickets, students were given key chains. "I am excited about prom this year," said Myers.

## WATZ UR BIZ BABY?

WHAT//IS//YOUR//BUSINESS//BABY?

**A**t school, all the clubs, groups, and sports need money to keep themselves going. Money makes the world go round these days. In every club at school they did some sort of fundraiser to get money (...\$ \$\$) so that they could spend it on things like field trips. Student Council sold suckers around Valentine's Day. International Club sold things like Mardi Gras for Mardi Gras and wreaths during Christmas time. With that money, they did a variety of things. If they didn't go on field trips with their money, then they saved it to use on a service project. The International Club saved all their money for their trip to Europe in the summer of 2009 (...=]). Each member sold suckers, and the money they collected went to their own fund for their expensive trip over seas. Besides the clubs at school, the members need money too. Some kids get lucky and don't ever need to work because their parents give them all the money they need (...ooOH), but the less fortunate ones have to work. "I don't have a job because I am too busy to have one. I play sports all year round, so it would be hard for me to keep one. When I need money, my parents give me what I need," said junior Jimmy Burch. Besides students like Burch, others have to pay for the extra things they want (...=]). "I got a job because I wanted the additional money. I work three to four days a week. Even though I have a job my parents still pay for the necessities," said senior Sara Nashkoff. Whether you are raising money for your club or yourself, use it wisely.



MICHAEL,  
AS A LITTLE BOY, YOU  
HAD A CUTE SMILE AND  
YOU HAVE NEVER LOST  
IT, AS YOU'VE GOT-  
TEN OLDER. GROWING  
UP YOU HAVE DEVELO-  
PED A GOOD CHARAC-  
TER FROM A COMBINATION OF LOVE OF  
GOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, HARD WORK  
AND DETERMINATION IN SCHOOL AND  
SPORTS. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE  
MAN YOU ARE TODAY AND KNOW THAT  
YOU WILL BE SUCCESS-  
FUL IN YOUR ENDEAV-  
ORS. YOU WILL ALWAYS  
BE IN OUR PRAYERS.

LOVE,  
MOM AND DAD

**MICHAEL TINICH**



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A  
DREAM AND A GOAL IS YOU.  
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN  
NOT DO IF YOU ONLY TRY.  
CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE  
VERY PROUD OF YOU.

LOVE,  
MOM AND DAD

**BRENTON STRAUCH**



DEAR VANESSA,  
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WHEN  
I HAD YOU. I CANNOT BELIEVE HOW  
THE YEARS HAVE GONE BY. YOU HAVE  
BLESSED OUR LIVES IN SO MANY WAYS.  
WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU AND THE  
WONDERFUL PERSON YOU HAVE GROWN  
UP TO BE. MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO  
BLESS YOU.

WE LOVE YOU,  
MOMMY, DADDY, KAITLYN, AND D.J.

**VANESSA GONZALEZ**



IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WE WERE  
COUNTING YOUR FINGERS AND TOES, AND  
NOW YOU'RE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL,  
THE TIME JUST GOES AND GOES. YOUR EDU-  
CATION STARTED IN PRESCHOOL WHERE YOU  
LEARNED OH SO MUCH. MRS. SANDRA TAUGHT  
YOU YOUR ABC'S, TO TIE YOUR SHOES, AND  
SUCH. WHEN WE DROPPED YOU OFF AT KINDER-  
GARTEN MANY TEARS HAD FILLED OUR EYES.  
THE NEXT THING WE KNOW OFF YOU GO TO



GRIFFITH JUNIOR HIGH. AFTER THAT IT'S GRIFFITH SENIOR HIGH, WHERE YOU MADE US OH SO  
PROUD. THE JOY OF WATCHING YOU GROW UP HAS US FLOATING ON A CLOUD. AND NOW IT'S  
TIME TO LEAVE THE NEST OFF TO COLLEGE AND ON YOUR OWN, BUT MOM AND I WANT YOU  
TO KNOW OUR HOUSE IS ALWAYS YOUR HOME.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS  
LOVE, MOM AND DAD

**ALEXA DRAGOIN**



TOD, YOUR ACHIEVEMENT IS AWESOME.  
THOUGH OUR GRADUATION'S DONE;  
YOUR WHOLE LIFE'S AN EDUCATION  
THAT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.  
YOUR DIPLOMA IS THE FIRST BIG STEP,  
FOR KNOWLEDGE IS THE SPECIAL KEY  
TO WINNING WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE  
AND BEING WHO YOU WANT TO BE.  
YOU'LL FIND THE SECRETS TO SUCCESS  
AND TRAVEL ON THE GOLDEN ROAD  
TO GOOD FORTUNE, PEACE AND HAPPINESS  
WE LOVE YOU SO, AND WE WANT YOU TO KNOW,  
WE THINK YOU'RE THE VERY BEST!

LOVE,  
DAD, MOM AND BRIANNE



**TOD BASHAM**



AMANDA,  
YOU ARE SUCH A  
BLESSING TO OUR  
LIVES. WE ARE SO  
PROUD OF THE PER-  
SON YOU HAVE  
GROWN TO BE. THIS  
IS JUST THE BEGIN-  
NING. ALWAYS REMEMBER WE ARE  
HERE FOR YOU. MAY GOD CONTINUE  
TO BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR DREAMS.

WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH,

MOM, DAD  
AND BRIAN

CLASS OF 2009



**AMANDA STINNETT**



MY EEMIA-  
FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, YOU  
WERE MY EEMIA! ALWAYS HAVE BEEN...  
ALWAYS WILL BE. (PINCH, PINCH)  
YOU WERE A VERY BEAUTIFUL CHILD THAT  
HAS GROWN INTO AN EVEN MORE BEAUTI-  
FUL YOUNG WOMAN. YOUR NANA IS SO  
PROUD OF YOU.  
ALWAYS REMEMBER... I LOVE YOU TO  
HEAVEN, AND NO ONE CAN GO ANY FUR-  
THER THAN THAT!!!

LOVE- YOUR NANA

**AIMEE JOHNSON**



MARK,  
THE YEARS GO BY WAY TOO FAST. YOU  
HAVE GROWN INTO AN AMAZING YOUNG  
MAN. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND  
ALL THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.  
MOST OF ALL YOU ARE A CARING,  
THOUGHTFUL, HEART WARMING INDIVI-  
DUAL, WHICH MAKES US VERY PROUD  
TO CALL YOU OUR SON. KEEP SMILING  
AND WATCHING FOR THE STARS!

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, DANNY & JACK

**MARK BLOUNT**



CAITI,  
TO OUR FAVORITE DAUGHTER! MAY YOU  
ALWAYS HAVE A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND  
LOVE IN YOUR HEART. WE LOOK AT YOU  
WITH LOVE AND PRIDE IN THE PERSON  
YOU HAVE BECOME. WE KNOW YOU WILL  
ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING YOU SET OUT  
TO DO AND HAVE FUN DOING IT TOO!

ALWAYS WITH LOVE,  
DAD, MOM, DAY, ZACK,  
& TRAVIS



**CAITLIN STEVENS**



CONGRATULATIONS  
ON GRADUATING  
FROM HIGH SCHOOL.  
MAY ALL YOUR FU-  
TURE PLANS OF  
PLAYING COLLEGE FOOTBALL COME  
TRUE! GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE! WE  
WISH YOU THE BEST!!!

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD AND  
SARA TOO!



**GREG JOYCE**



ASHLEY,  
WELL, YOU DID IT,  
CONGRATULATIONS. I  
AM SO PROUD OF YOU  
AND I AM GLAD YOU  
HAD FUN ALONG THE  
WAY. ALWAYS FOLLOW  
YOUR DREAMS. NEVER GIVE UP ON  
WHAT YOU WANT FROM LIFE. SUCCESS  
IS WAITING FOR YOU; EMBRACE YOUR  
DREAMS AND FOLLOW YOUR GOALS.  
WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH. WE WILL AL-  
WAYS BE THERE FOR  
YOU.

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD,  
AND MATT



**ASHLEY DAVIS**



STACY,  
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE OUR BEAUTIFUL  
LITTLE GIRL, BUT YOU HAVE GROWN  
INTO SUCH A LOVING AND CARING  
PERSON. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO  
PROUD OF YOU. YOU ARE THE BEST  
DAUGHTER AND LITTLE SIS. WE KNOW  
THAT ALL OF YOUR WISHES AND  
DREAMS WILL COME TRUE.

LOVE ALWAYS,  
DAD, MOM, AND KELLY



**STACY STASZAK**



IT SEEMS AS IF YOU WERE JUST A BABY  
AND NOW LOOK AT YOU - ALL GROWN UP!  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND EVERY-  
THING YOU DO. FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS.

WE LOVE YOU!  
DAD, MOM, PAIGE  
AND GRANDMA



**CHRISTINE OBERMEYER**



D.J.,

YOU HAVE WORKED TOWARD THIS DAY FOR YEARS. WE HOPE YOU LEARNED AND HAD FUN. GRADUATION SOMETIMES BRINGS TEARS, BUT REMEMBER YOUR LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN. GREAT JOB AND CONGRATS!! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



LOVE,  
MOM, DAD,  
AND NICK



**DONALD ROACH**



AUSTIN,

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. THE WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH IT. GO OUT AND FIND YOUR DREAMS, AND RUN WITH THEM. GO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS YOU HAVE SET AND MAKE THE WORLD STAND UP AND TAKE NOTICE HOW AMAZING YOU ARE. YOU HAVE BROUGHT SO MUCH JOY AND LOVE TO OUR LIVES, AND SO MANY WONDERFUL MEMORIES.



LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, CONNOR, KALEB,  
PAPA & GRANDMA



## AUSTIN O'NEAL



BRITNEY,

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. YOU HAVE GROWN INTO A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY. FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS. WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AS YOU ENTER A NEW LIFE INTO COLLEGE.

LOVE,  
MOM, JOE, RENEE,  
MELONY, CASEY,  
“WINSTON”



**BRITNEY CABRALES**



TO OUR DAUGHTER LINDSAY,  
A DAUGHTER IS LOVE IN A BRIGHT PINK BOW,  
A BUNDLE OF HAPPINESS ALL AGLOW  
A TOMBOY IN JEANS WITH A TEAR STREAKED FACE,  
CRYING BECAUSE SHE HAS JUST LOST A RACE.  
THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN NO LONGER SMALL,  
SHE'S A VISION OF LOVELINESS DRESSED FOR A BALL.

A DREAMER, A SCHEMER, NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME,  
WHAT IS A DAUGHTER... IT'S MORE THAN A NAME  
SHE'S A PLEASURE, A TREASURE, A COMFORT EACH DAY,  
LAUGHING AND TEASING IN HER OWN SPECIAL WAY  
SHE'S A SENSE OF CONTENTMENT

FELT DEEP INSIDE,  
BRINGING TO HER PARENTS A LIFETIME OF PRIDE!  
WE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU!!

LOVE, MOM, DAD,  
ADAM AND STEPHANIE



**LINDSAY BRANDNER**



BETH,

YOU ARE SUCH AN AMAZING DAUGHTER. IT HAS BEEN PURE JOY WATCHING YOU DEVELOP INTO THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN YOU HAVE BECOME. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO WATCH YOU BLOSSOM WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND ALL THE EXTRA ACTIVITIES YOU DO. ALWAYS LOVE GOD, YOURSELF, AND YOUR FAMILY.

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS!

LOVE,  
DAD & MOM



## BETH THRALL



DANNY,

THANKS FOR ALL THE GREAT SOCCER YEARS! AS A SON, YOU WERE ALWAYS EXCITING AND THERE WAS NEVER A BORING MOMENT. YOU HAVE MANY FRIENDS, GREAT MEMORIES, AND EVEN FINALLY GREW UP! LOOK AHEAD TO COLLEGE AT "TRINE" AND ALWAYS KNOW THAT WE ARE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY WHEN NEEDED!



GOD BLESS YOU!

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND KEVIN



## JEFFERY TOROK



JEFF- (KICKER)- IT'S BEEN AN AMAZING AND SEEMINGLY SHORT JOURNEY TO THIS YEAR. IT'S BEEN FUN WATCHING YOU THROUGH IT ALL- SOCCER- FOOTBALL- CHORALE- THE PLAYS- YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH, AND WE ARE SO PROUD- THANKS FOR BEING YOU. GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE.

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND  
THE BROTHERS

JEFFREY MELTON



SO PROUD OF YOU AND ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. I WISH FOR YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS, HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND LOVE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK!

LOVE,  
GRANDMA

AIMEE JOHNSON



AMANDA,  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!  
YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH  
SO MUCH TO GET THIS FAR.  
ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR HEART  
AND YOU WILL BE OKAY.

WE LOVE YOU!  
MOM, DAD, AND GARRET

AMANDA CRAVEN



TO OUR WONDERFUL DAUGHTER  
AND SISTER.  
THROUGH THE YEARS, WE HAVE HAD  
THE PRIVILEGE TO SEE YOU GROW  
INTO A STRONG AND LOVING YOUNG  
WOMAN. WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD  
OF YOU AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD  
TO THIS NEW PHASE IN YOUR  
LIFE. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
GRADUATION!

ALL OUR LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND RICHIE

BROOKE STUDNIARZ



WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU AND  
YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. YOU HAVE  
GIVEN US SO MANY GREAT MEMORIES.  
YOU HAVE GROWN INTO SUCH A BEAUTIFUL  
AND WONDERFUL YOUNG LADY.  
WE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU  
WITH OUR LOVE AND SUPPORT. GOOD  
LUCK IN COLLEGE.



WE LOVE YOU,  
MOM, DARREL, ELISSA,  
AND ADDISON

BRANDI HEIDLER



TO OUR PRECIOUS "LITTLE ONE."

WE'VE LOVED YOU FROM THE START. A SMILE SO ADORABLE. YOU  
REALLY WON OUR HEARTS.

WE KNEW THE DAY THAT YOU WERE BORN THAT WE WERE TRULY  
BLESSED TO RAISE YOU RIGHT AND KEEP YOU STRONG WOULD PURELY  
BE A TEST.

BUT PASS IT WE DID, WITH HONESTY AND PRIDE, FOR YOU ARE  
LOYAL, TRUSTWORTHY AND KIND. YOU ARE LOVED BY ALL- BIG AND  
SMALL, A KINDER SOUL YOU'LL NEVER FIND.

WHATEVER AVENUE YOU DECIDE TO TAKE YOUR DETERMINATION  
WON'T LET YOU QUIT. THIS WORLD WILL BE A MUCH BETTER PLACE  
JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE IN IT.



MAY YOUR FUTURE BE BLESSED  
WITH HEALTH AND SUCCESS.

LOVE YOU!  
DAD, MOM, ERIK, PAPA  
JOHN AND ANITA



# ASHLEY AZZARELLO

WE WILL NEVER EVER FORGET THE DAY YOU WERE BORN! YOU WERE OUR FIRST GRANDCHILD AND OUR WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME.

HERE YOU ARE A FUTURE COLLEGE GUY AND A WONDERFUL YOUNG PERSON. IT IS BITTER-SWEET BECAUSE THE TIME WENT SO FAST, BUT YET IS SO REWARDING TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME.

WE SEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND OUR WISH FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE LIFE. PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND ARE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL LIFE AND CAREER AHEAD OF YOU.

THANK YOU FOR ENHANCING OUR LIVES AND LOVING US LIKE YOU DO.

ALL OUR LOVE AND PRIDE FOREVER,  
GRANDPA JERRY (IN SPIRIT)  
AND GRANDMA PAT

**KEVIN CORRIE**

SWEET  
CAROLINE,  
YOU HOLD A  
GREAT HAPPI-  
NESS IN OUR  
LIVES. YOUR JOY  
OF LIFE HAS BEEN A BLESS-  
ING AND A GIFT. THIS IS THE  
KEY TO YOUR FUTURE!

LOVING YOU  
FOREVER,  
MOM, DAD,  
AND CONNIE



**CAROLINE HERRERA**



CONGRATULATIONS- WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH OVER THE YEARS. IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE WATCHING YOU GROW UP AND ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS. YOUR FAMILY WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU AND BE THERE FOR YOU

LOVE,

MOM-DAD-WENDY-PEPPER



**SAMMI HOLMES**



SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO WE WERE BLESSED BY GOD WITH A RAY OF SUNSHINE! YOU HAVE BEEN A JOY TO ALL WHO KNOW AND LOVE YOU. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND ALL OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS, YOUR HARD WORK, HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND JUST BEING YOU. YOU HAVE BLESSED OUR LIVES IN SO MANY WAYS. THE YEARS HAVE GONE BY SO FAST BUT THE BEST IS YET TO COME. WE KNOW YOU WILL SUCCEED AT ANYTHING YOU CHOOSE TO DO. BE HAPPY AND ENJOY LIFE.

WE LOVE YOU!  
DAD, MOM AND DANIEL



# BRANDON RUKEs



BAILEY ROCHELLE ANNA CURTIS,  
EIGHTEEN YEARS CAME IN A BLINK OF AN EYE - WHERE  
HAS THE TIME GONE? WE ARE SO PROUD OF HOW YOU  
HAVE GROWN INTO SUCH A WONDERFUL LOVING YOUNG  
LADY. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED! HOW EXCITING IT IS TO  
START ANOTHER CHAPTER OF YOUR LIFE! ALWAYS RE-  
MEMBER AS YOU VENTURE ON THIS ROLLER COASTER OF  
LIFE TO ENJOY THE CLIMB, SCREAM ON THE DIPS AND  
LAUGH THROUGH THE LOOPS. YOU ARE THE SUNSHINE  
THAT TOUCHES OUR LIVES EVERYDAY. WE LOVE YOU  
AND WE ARE PROUD OF YOU. GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE.  
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE OUR LITTLE "QUEEN BEE".



WE LOVE YOU,  
MOM & DAD  
CLASS OF 2009



## BAILEY CURTIS



DANNY,  
TIME HAS PASSED SO QUICKLY.  
OUR BEAUTIFUL LITTLE BOY HAS  
GROWN TO BE A WONDERFUL, HAND-  
SOME YOUNG MAN. WE WILL AL-  
WAYS CHEERISH THE MEMORIES OF  
WATCHING YOU GROW. FOLLOW YOUR  
BREAKS, THE BEST IS YET TO BE. WE  
ARE PROUD OF YOU!

WE LOVE YOU,  
MOM, DAD & JAIME

## DANNY KELLER



YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH  
SO MUCH IN YOUR 18  
YEARS. WE ARE SO PROUD  
OF YOU!

LOVE,  
MOM, STEVEN & ROBERT  
(AND DAD IN HEAVEN)

## SEAN MALONE



ANNIE,  
YOU HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN THE ONE TO  
TAKE THE ROAD  
"LESS TRAVELED BY"  
AS ROBERT FROST  
WOULD SAY, "AND  
THAT HAS MADE ALL  
THE DIFFERENCE." YOUR HIGH SCHOOL  
JOURNEY IS NOW COMPLETE AND YOU  
WILL SURELY RISE TO THE CHALLEN-  
GES OF YOUR NEXT EXPEDITION. YOUR  
DAD WOULD HAVE  
BEEN OVERJOYED TO  
SEE HIS "PRINCESS"  
NOW.

ALL OUR LOVE,  
MOM AND KATE



## ANNIE HIGGINBOTHAM



### ~AIMEE NICOLE JOHNSON~

CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE SO VERY, PROUD OF YOU! IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY THAT WE WERE BLESSED BY YOUR BIRTH. TIME HAS PASSED BY SO QUICKLY AND IT HAS BEEN SUCH A PLEASURE WATCHING YOU GROW UP. FROM YOU SWEET LITTLE JELLY-FACED TODDLER DAYS, TO YOUR ELEMENTARY DAYS AT FRANKLIN, TO YOUR FRIDAY NIGHT PANTHERETTE PERFORMANCES AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, YOU HAVE BECOME A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY WITH THAT WARM, CAPTIVATING SMILE. ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR HEART; STAY TRUE TO YOUR BELIEFS AND YOU WILL ACHIEVE ALL OF YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS. FOREVER KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY "BABY GIRL"  
AND DADDY'S "BABY"

WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK AS YOU START COLLEGE IN PURSUIT OF YOUR DENTAL DEGREE.  
YOUR LOVING AND CARING WAYS WILL BE GREAT ATTRIBUTES IN YOU BECOMING A DENTIST.

IF YOU COULD SEE THE FLOWERS IN THE WORLD; IF YOU COULD MAKE ALL THE DREAMS THAT EVER  
WERE WISHED, COME TRUE; THEN YOU WOULD KNOW JUST A TINY BIT OF THE PRIDE AND JOY THAT WE  
FEEL BEING BLESSED BY HAVING A DAUGHTER LIKE YOU!

ALL OUR LOVE TO YOU AIMEE, NOW AND FOREVER!

MOMMIE & DAD  
MAY 31, 2009



# AIMEE JOHNSON



MICHELLE,

WE HAVE WATCHED YOU GROW FROM OUR LITTLE GIRL TO A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN. GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH SO MANY TALENTS. WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU AND ALL OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU HAVE ACHIEVED.

YOU HAVE BEEN A JOY TO WATCH AND HAVE CREATED SOME WONDERFUL MEMORIES THAT WE WILL TREASURE. BE HAPPY, BE POSITIVE, BE CONFIDENT, AND ALWAYS KEEP THAT SMILE. GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE AND FOLLOW ALL YOUR GOALS AND DREAMS.

THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER AND BEST SISTER. YOUR LITTLE PUMPKIN! WE LOVE YOU SO VERY MUCH.  
LOVE,  
MOM, DAD,  
KRISTINA, CHRISTOPHER



## MICHELLE PLUCINSKI

JUSTIN,

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT 18 YEARS HAVE CAME AND GONE SO FAST. WE HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING YOU TURN INTO THIS WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN. GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE AND REMEMBER YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE OUR LOVE AND SUPPORT.

LOVE ALWAYS,  
MOM, DAD  
AND ADAM



## JUSTIN GASPER



DEAR BRYAN,  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS. YOU ARE A VERY BRIGHT AND HARD WORKING YOUNG MAN, THAT WILL TAKE YOU FAR. WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST ON YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE.  
LOVE, MOM, DAD & AARON

## BRYAN LOPEZ



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TO CLASS OF  
2009!**  
**CAROLINE HERRERA**



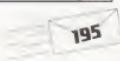
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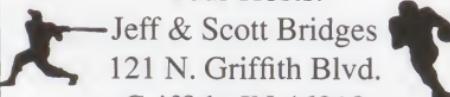
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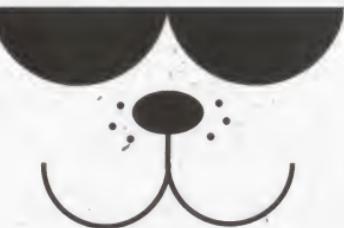


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**Drink Pepsi!**

**Congratulations  
Class of 2009!**



DEAR FRANCES,  
WELCOME TO THE  
WORLD OF CHOICES.  
YOU HAVE GROWN INTO  
A LOVELY YOUNG  
LADY BEFORE OUR  
VERY EYES. WE CAN  
ONLY BEGIN TO IMAG-  
INE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES THAT YOUR  
HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION WILL  
BRING YOU. REMEMBER TO MAKE EACH  
DAY COUNT, KEEP A SMILE ON YOUR  
FACE, ALWAYS DO YOUR VERY BEST AND  
MAKE WISE CHOICES.  
THE BEST WILL COME  
YOUR WAY. WE ARE SO  
VERY PROUD OF YOU!

ALL OUR LOVE,  
MOM & DAD



## FRANCES PIETRUCHA



WE ARE SO VERY  
PROUD OF THE  
WONDERFUL PER-  
SON YOU HAVE BE-  
COME THROUGH-  
OUT THE YEARS.  
DREAM BIG AND LET YOUR  
HEART ALWAYS GUIDE YOU  
IN YOUR ADVENTURES. GOD  
BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND KNOW  
THAT GRANDMA  
IS YOUR GUARD-  
IAN ANGEL.

LOVE,  
STEF & DAVE



## SEAN PEREZ



MICHAEL,  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. IT'S HARD TO  
BELIEVE THAT 18 YEARS HAVE COME AND  
GONE SO FAST. YOU'VE BLESSED US WITH SO  
MANY GREAT MEMORIES THAT WE WILL HOLD  
IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER. MAY YOUR FUTURE  
BE FILLED WITH LOVE, SUCCESS, AND HAP-  
PINESS. WE LOVE YOU AND WILL ALWAYS BE  
HERE FOR YOU. CONGRATULATIONS!

LOVE, MOM, DAD,  
KAITLIN, NANIE, AND POPPIE



## MICHAEL RAY



"LIFE IS A GAME. PLAY IT WELL!"  
CLASS 1948  
CARMINE H.S.



## KATHERINE RONE



KEVIN,

AS YOU REACH THIS MILESTONE IN YOUR LIFE, I AM FLOODED WITH SO MANY EMOTIONS REMEMBERING THE ADORABLE, SMILING, AND EVER-SO-HAPPY BABY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER. THAT BABY THEN GREW INTO A FASCINATING LITTLE BOY WHO ALWAYS GAVE SO MUCH LOVE AND JOY TO ME AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY. THEN IN A FLASH, HE BECAME A MARVELOUS YOUNG MAN WHO HAS BROUGHT SUCH PRIDE AND HAPPINESS TO MY LIFE. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT TIME HAS PASSED SO QUICKLY. I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF WHO YOU HAVE BECOME AND I AM FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT FOR YOU AS YOU EMBARK ON THE NEXT PART OF YOUR JOURNEY. I KNOW GREAT THINGS AWAITS YOU. CONGRATULATIONS!

I LOVE YOU ALWAYS,  
MOM



## KEVIN CORRIE



DEAR KRISTEN,

EIGHTEEN YEARS HAVE GONE BY SO FAST, AND YOU HAVE GROWN INTO A BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, ATHLETIC, FUNNY, AND THOUGHTFUL YOUNG LADY. WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. YOU ARE A WONDERFUL DAUGHTER. IT'S BEEN SO MUCH FUN WATCHING YOU PLAY SOCCER AND SOFTBALL. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE MEMORIES. GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE AND WITH EVERYTHING LIFE BRINGS YOU. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU ALWAYS.

LOVE,

MOM, DAD, TYLER AND ERICA



## KRISTEN YOST



GARRETT,

IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAP INTO ADULT LIFE (IT REALLY FLEW BY FAST.) WE HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING YOU GROW UP AND BECOME A GREAT YOUNG MAN. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A HARD WORKER, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU REALIZE THAT WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. MAY YOUR FUTURE BE BRIGHT, SUCCESSFUL, AND FUN. REMEMBER TO KEEP GOD FIRST, AND YOU WILL GO FAR.

WE LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY.

LOVE,

DAD, MOM, MORGAN, AND TY



P.S. WHINNIE & CHLORE LOVE YA TOO!!

P.S.S. DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF!



## GARRETT WHITE



JORDAN,

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS BORN, YOU ARE OVERWHELMED WITH EMOTIONS AND ARE EXCITED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PERSON THAT THEY MAY BECOME. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THEM, YOU SEE YOURSELF AND ARE FILLED WITH PRIDE, BUT YOU ACTUALLY HOPE THEY TURN OUT TO BE A BETTER VERSION OF YOU. SO ALONG THE JOURNEY OF WATCHING THEM GROW, YOU MAKE QUIET COMPARISONS.

STANDING HERE AT THIS MILESTONE IN YOUR LIFE, MOM AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT SO FAR, YOU HAVE SURPASSED OUR HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS. WE'VE BEEN AMAZED AT YOUR TALENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. YOUR MATURITY LEVEL AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY HAVE MADE IT EASY ON US. WE'RE MOST PROUD, THOUGH, OF YOUR HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND SENSE OF COMPASSION. WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I DO SEE A BETTER VERSION OF MYSELF AND, AS A PARENT, THAT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY. MOM AND I ARE STILL SO EXCITED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PERSON THAT YOU WILL BECOME. THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT.

THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD  
KID.

WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH  
AND WILL ALWAYS BE THERE  
FOR YOU.  
DAD AND MOM



# JORDAN REDAR



ERICA,

WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL, YOU WERE ALWAYS STRIVING FOR PERFECTION, ALWAYS WORRYING IF SOMETHING YOUR TRIED DID NOT GO JUST RIGHT.

MY HEART WOULD TIGHTEN INSIDE MY CHEST EACH TIME I WITNESSED THAT DETERMINED, YET SENSITIVE SPIRIT OF YOURS; YOU WERE TOO BEAUTIFUL TO SEE.

AND NOW THAT YOUR A YOUNG WOMAN, YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE LIFE PASSIONATELY; I CAN SEE IN YOUR EYES A CLARITY OF PURPOSE AS YOU GIVE EVERYTHING YOU DO YOUR PERSONAL BEST.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE WHO REACHES FOR AND TOUCHES THE SKY.

I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT WHATEVER YOU DO OR WHOMEVER YOU BECOME, THERE'S ONE THING YOU NEVER HAVE TO WORK FOR; THAT IS OUR LOVE. THAT IS THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY OF YOUR LIFE.

NO ONE COULD EVER LOVE A DAUGHTER AND BELIEVE IN HER MORE DEEPLY THAN WE LOVE AND BELIEVE IN YOU.

ALL OUR LOVE,

MOM, DAD, NICHOLAS, THOMAS, AND KURBY



## ERICA KUDYBA



### FIND YOUR WINGS

IT'S ONLY FOR A MOMENT THAT YOU WERE OURS TO HOLD  
THE PLANS THAT HEAVEN HAS FOR YOU WILL ALL TOO SOON UNFOLD  
SO MANY DIFFERENT PRAYERS WE'LL PRAY FOR ALL THAT YOU MIGHT DO.  
BUT MOST OF ALL WE WANT TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE WALKING IN THE TRUTH

AND IF WE NEVER TOLD YOU

THAT AS WE WATCH YOU GROW,

WE PRAY THAT GOD WOULD FILL YOUR HEART WITH DREAMS,  
AND THAT FAITH GIVES YOU THE COURAGE TO DARE TO DO GREAT THINGS.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU WHATEVER THIS LIFE BRINGS

SO LET OUR LOVE GIVE YOU ROOTS

AND HELP YOU FIND YOUR WINGS

MAY PASSION BE THE WIND THAT LEADS YOU THROUGH YOUR DAYS  
AND MAY CONVICTION KEEP YOU STRONG AND GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY  
MAY THERE BE MANY MOMENTS THAT MAKE YOUR LIFE SO SWEET.

OH BUT MORE THAN MEMORIES....

I PRAY THAT GOD WOULD FILL YOUR HEART WITH DREAMS  
AND THAT FAITH GIVES YOU THE COURAGE TO DARE TO DO THINGS.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU WHATEVER THIS LIFE BRINGS

SO LET MY LOVE GIVE YOU ROOTS

AND HELP YOU FIND YOUR WINGS

IT'S NOT LIVING IF YOU DON'T REACH FOR THE SKY  
WE'LL HAVE TEARS AS YOU TAKE OFF....

BUT WE'LL CHEER AS YOUR FLY....

LOVE,

DAD, MOM, DAVE, AND ALYSIA



## ABBY METSCH



SON,

FROM THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, YOU HAVE BEEN A WARM SPOT IN OUR HEARTS AND A SMILE ON OUR LIPS. IN THE BEGINNING YOU WERE CHARMING, INNOCENT AND PUT YOUR COMPLETE TRUST IN US. YOU CAME TO US FOR A HAND TO HOLD FOR SECURITY. YOU SHARED YOUR TALES OF ADVENTURE, KNOWING HOW PROUD WE WERE OF YOUR DISCOVERIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

TIME HAS PASSED AND STARTED TO TEST YOUR LIMITS. YOU LET GO OF OUR HANDS TO RACE INTO THE MIDST OF LIFE WITHOUT THINKING AHEAD OR LOOKING BOTH WAYS... PRIVACY AND INDEPENDENCE IS WHAT YOU CHOSE. YOU HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A THOUGHTFUL YOUNG MAN THAT WE ARE ALL PROUD TO PRESENT TO THE WORLD. AS YOU GO THROUGH LIFE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

IN OUR HEARTS, YOU ARE PRECIOUS AND TREASURED. YOU ARE OUR PAST AND FUTURE, OUR HOPES AND DREAMS.

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE A HAND FOR YOU TO HOLD AND ARMS TO PROVIDE COMFORT AND SUPPORT. MOST OF ALL, BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS MUCH AS WE BELIEVE IN YOU. WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH ANY GOAL SET YOUR MIND TO.

WE WISH YOU.....

COURAGE, SUCCESS, JOY, HAPPINESS, HUMOR, A TWINKLE IN YOUR EYE, GLORY, STRENGTH, PEACE, HEALTH, KNOWLEDGE AND FAITH... MORE WE CANNOT WISH EXCEPT PERHAPS LOVE TO MAKE AT; THE REST WORTH WHILE.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE CHIC PROGRAM (COOKING AND HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO) AS A PASTRY CHEF.

GO PROM KING!  
AND ALSO FOR MAKING HOMECOMING COURT!

WITH ALL OUR LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, VIVIAN, GRANDPA, AND  
GRANDMA



# SEAN PEREZ



KELSIE,  
WE ARE SO PROUD  
OF YOU AND FEEL SO  
BLESSED TO HAVE  
YOU AS OUR DAUGH-  
TER. YOUR LOVE  
FOR LIFE AND YOUR  
LAUGHTER HAS AL-  
WAYS BROUGHT JOY TO OUR LIVES!  
AS YOU BEGIN THIS NEW CHAPTER IN  
YOUR LIFE, WE WISH YOU HAPPINESS  
AND SUCCESS IN ALL YOU DO! CON-  
GRATULATIONS!

ALL OUR LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND AMY



## KELSIE BELCHER



WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE  
BLESSINGS YOUR LIFE HAS GIV-  
EN US. WITH PRIDE IN ALL YOU  
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. WITH  
HOPE FOR ALL YOU WILL BE-  
COME.

WITH ETERNAL LOVE,  
MOM AND DAD

## CHRISTINA SOY



AMBER, YOU HAVE CONQUERED  
YOUR DREAM OF EDUCATION.  
AND NOW YOUR AMBITION AND  
GOALS FOR THE FUTURE WILL  
TAKE YOU AS FAR AS YOU CAN  
FLY. YOUR FAMILY IS SO PROUD  
OF YOU.

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND CRYSTAL

## AMBERMARIE VANWHITE



LAUREN,  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. YOU ARE  
A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY. ALWAYS  
KEEP YOUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND  
YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH WHATEVER  
YOU SET OUT TO DO. WE WISH YOU  
ALL THE SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS  
YOU DESERVE.

LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, AND KRISTEN

## LAUREN MATHEWS



WE REMEMBER BEING SLEEP DEPRIVED NEW PARENTS AND NONNIE SAYING, "ENJOY EVERYDAY, BECAUSE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT HE'LL BE GROWN AND YOU'LL WISH YOU COULD GET THESE DAYS BACK." AT THE TIME, WE WEREN'T CONVINCED, BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE GROWN, THE WISDOM OF HER WORDS HAVE REAL MEANING! WHILE WE'LL ALWAYS MISS THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH, WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE PERSON YOU'VE GROWN UP TO BE. WE LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY, MIKE!  
CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATION!



LOVE,  
MOM, DAD, SARAH, AUSTIN, AND ANNA



## MIKE GUISTOLISI



LARRY,  
WHEN YOU WERE SMALL, YOU JUST SMILED AND LAUGHED ALL THE TIME. NOW THAT YOU'VE GROWN, YOU'VE BROUGHT US THE JOY OF LAUGHTER AS WELL AS THE IMENSE PRIDE WE HAVE IN WHO YOU HAVE BECOME. HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO ORDER A MADE TO ORDER SON, WE WOULD'VE COME UP SHORT, AS WE WOULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THE DIVERSITY OF YOU. WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS OUR SON.



LOVE,  
MOM AND DAD



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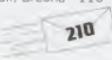
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Wilfinger, Lenny 51

Wilkerson, Richard 94

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Yost, Tyler 48

Young, Clarence 35, 51, 99, 105

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Zuniga, Joe 51, 66, 67, 99, 105

Zurawski, Matthew 85

Zurawski, Michael 80, 85

**Football 11,12 Baseball 9****Perfect Attendance 2008-2009****Row 1:** Ryan Bluhm, Zachary Muller, Anna Scheil, Megan McVicker**Row 2:** Kyle Jursic, Joseph Vaclavik, Elizabeth Kras, Mia Campbell, Nick Goode**Row 3:** Ryan Fisch, Edward Fitzgerald, Jared Tibbs, Michelle Sopetti, Lindsey Sopetti**Not Pictured:** Whitney Harwell, Joel Kepchar, Tyler Morrison, Amber Arnold, Matt Bluhm, Nathan Lara

## **waitin 2 b4v3**

While waiting for their luggage at the airport, seniors Jeff Melton, Trevor Janke, and Ryan Galher talk about the trip. "We were all excited for the cruise and being in the Bahamas," said Janke.



Photo Provided



Photo Provided

## **by3 fishy**

After prom, seniors Annie Higginbotham and Frances Pietrucha went fishing at Lake Chapmen. "I had made a deal with Annie that if she really caught a fish I would kiss it, so when she did I had to keep up my end of the deal," said Pietrucha.

## **g00dby3 2 the s5niors**

Relaxing in between class junior Alberto Acosta sits on one of the couches the seniors brought in for their prank. "At the moment I just felt like taking a break and I was messing around with my friends," said Acosta.



Annie Higginbotham

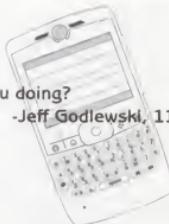
Ya @ 12:45 when I was sleepin  
-Kelsey Bonewits, 9



The duck is in the yard and ur  
invited!!! lol  
-Presley Corich, 10



Wat r u doing?  
-Jeff Godlewski, 11



# GOODBYE = [

GOODBYE//

**A**nother 182 days of school is coming to an end (... = [ ). The last months of school means a mix of good and bad things for the students of Griffith High School. To the seniors it is nothing but good things (... = ] ). The seniors have the senior banquet, senior ditch day, and of course graduation. Thinking about the last couple of weeks of school, senior Shelby Boilek shares what she is most looking forward to. "I am most excited for graduation. It will be really cool to finally be done with high school," said Boilek. For the underclassmen, they have to stress out about studying for finals and to make sure they don't fail any classes. No one wants to be in summer school (... YUCK ). "I will for sure be stressed out about finals. I have many other things going on so it will be hectic. Thinking about it, math will give me the most trouble. That class is hard for me so I will have to study a lot for it," said freshman Alice Duhon. Aside from school work the last couple of months mean spring sports are underway. For the students in a spring sport it could be a distraction to the school work that normally gets piled on near the end of the year. "It is hard to balance both homework and track, but both are important to me so I find time. Near the end of the year I feel like they do give more work so it is harder to find time to do my homework. Also, for track we are at the peak of our season so the practices are longer," said junior Lindsay Meece. Whatever grade you are in, the last couple of months drag on. It seems that summer is never going to come. When the final bell rings on May 22nd for seniors (... OMG) and June 3rd (... HAHA) for everyone else, summer (... = 0 ) has finally arrived. No more homework, tests, or teachers for weeks. Enjoy it while you can because for some of you before you know it school will start again and students will be counting down the days until the next summer. During summer, people are going to try to work hard to stay close with their friends from school. Summer is the time to get closer with your friends and maybe make new friends. Either way, if you are getting closer or making new friends, remember the most important thing to do is K33p N T0uch.

#### rec. the gOOD

On stage to receive her academic honors award, freshman Kelly Lannin stands with others who wait for their award. "I don't like attention, so I just wanted to get off stage," said Lannin.



All Pictures by

Wat time is dance?

-Rebecca Franken, 11



R u down 2 go..... yes or no??

-Danny Tokor, 12



# K33P N TOUCH



This book was printed by Herff Jones at 2525 Mid-point Drive, Edwardsville, Kansas. The whole yearbook staff would like to thank our Yearbook Representative, Lisa Keene and Julie Mosoriak for coming to get all of our spreads and bringing us doughnuts. This years theme is Keep in Touch. The theme pages, including end sheets, title page, opening, closing, dividers, and the colophon, were designed by Frances Pietrucha. The other sections in the book were designed by Chrissy Obermeyer, Kiara Gragido, Jake Long, and Raquel Mazur. The cover was designed by the editor and the staff, and generated by the plant. The sections throughout the book are designed differently and have different fonts. The story font is AHJ Benjamin Gothic Regular size 10. The caption font is AHJ Benjamin Gothic Regular size 9. The caption headline is AHJ Benjamin Gothic Heavy size 10. The photo bys are AHJ Benjamin Gothic Regular size 7. The other fonts used throughout the book are AHJ Desiree, AHJ Micro Square Regular, AHJ Unitus Condensed, AHJ Toxica, and AHJ Fuction Regular.

Almost all of the pictures were taken with a digital camera and then uploaded onto the computers. ImageIn is used to place all the pictures on the spreads. The sports team, groups, faculty, and senior pictures were taken by Larry Titak Photography and all underclassmen pictures were taken by Interstate Studios, Inc.

The goal of the Reflector staff is to portray everyone to the best of our ability and create a book of memories to last a lifetime.

The staff would like to thank our advisor Mrs. Collard. She was the best advisor. Mrs. Collard helped us with anything we needed and she always knows the answer to any question.

**Editor-In-Chief** - Frances Pietrucha

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Obermeyer

**People Editor** - Kiara Gragido

**Sports Editor** - Jake Long

**Academic Editor** - Raquel Mazur

**Clubs Editor** - Robin Sophiea

**Photo Editor** - Annie Higginbotham

**Business Manager** - Nicole Hamill

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**Reporters** - Amanda Bakko, Elizabeth Biancardi, Stephanie Brandner, Kristi Buxton, Jillian Dixon, Dylan Etheridge, Rachel Garastik, Hannah Hack, Kaitlyn Herron, Samantha McInerney, Lauren Million, Morgan Momcilovich, Lisa Rafa, Kaitlyn Sudac, Brooke Trueblood

## Letter from the editor.....

I can't believe that this year is over. The staff this year worked hard every deadline. They never slacked and always put forth their best effort. It helped to have such a good advisor. Mrs. Collard always helped us and never doubted us and our abilities. I hope that this yearbook captured the best memories for the students at Griffith High School.





Frances Pietrucha-  
Editor

Hey Hey :)

Chrissy Obermeyer-  
Student Life Editor  
U Tyga?!



Kiara Gragido-  
People Editor

Laur, Chrissy!! I just saw Tyga!!!!

Jake Long-  
Sports Editor  
I swear everytime I talk to you,  
you're at pizza hut



Robin Sophiae-  
Clubs Editor

Fr33dom

Raquel Mazur-  
Academics Editor  
Lol 4 both of us... if there wasn't a  
gutter our minds would b homeless



Annie Higginbotham-  
Photo Editor

K

Ali Pietrucha-  
Photographer

I <3 yrkb class :D



Amanda Zaborowski-  
Photographer

yrkb: eat fr3sh :)

Lisa Rafa-  
Photographer

LOL ? kk <3



Caroline Herrera-  
Photographer

Mah Boy, it's GARBAGE DAY!!!

Nicole Hamill-  
Advertising Editor

IDK



Morgan Momiclovich-  
Staff Reporter

Luv Yah.... XoXo

Hannah Hack-  
Staff Reporter

I <3 Brooke



Kristi Buxton-  
Staff Reporter

ily:)

Kaitlyn Sudac-  
Staff Reporter

Goodnight Kaitlyn Sudac I love u

Jillian Dixon-  
Staff Reporter

C ya soon :)



Dylan Etheridge-  
Staff Reporter

Ya dig!



Samantha MacInerney-  
Staff Reporter

I <3 Miley Cyrus! =)

Kaitlyn Herron-  
Staff Reporter

I lov3 y3arb00k :)



Lauren Million-  
Staff Reporter

I'm fighting for  
terf right now:  
text u later



Chrissy Colgrove-  
Staff Reporter

C u nxt yr =]

Elizabeth Biancardi-  
Staff Reporter

I hate Miley Cyrus! =(



Kristina Collard-  
Advisor

Idk how 2 txt /=

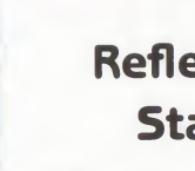


Stephanie Brandner-  
Staff Reporter

My sista is a huge lammmo =)

Brooke Trueblood-  
Staff Reporter

I <3 Hannah



# Reflector Staff Contact List 2008-2009

Rachel Garastik-  
Staff Reporter

Like Pringles, once ya pop,  
ya just can't stop

Amanda Bakko-  
Staff Reporter

Im in English class suppose to b read-  
ing but im dreaming about being on  
the price is right





TALK TO  
YA LATER